E/1993/34
E/ICEF/1993/14

United Nations

United Nations Children's Fund

Report of the Executive Board (26 April-7 May 1993)

Economic and Social Council

Official Records, 1993
Supplement No.14

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United Nations • New York, 1994

NOTE

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ISSN 0252-3507

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SUMMARY

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolutions 1988/77 and 1989/14 on the revitalization of the work of the Council, the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) wishes to highlight the recommendations made and decisions adopted at it 1993 regular session.

The Executive Board, in a decision on follow-up to the World Summit for Children (decision 1993/12), encouraged countries to examine their national programmes of action (NPAs) so as to identify feasible targets for achievement by mid-decade, develop annual action plans enabling NPA activities to be incorporated into the regular national budgetary process and develop plans and programmes to make national programmes operational at provincial, municipal and district levels.

The Board endorsed the year 1995 as a target date for every State in the world to have become a party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, called upon all States which have not ratified the Convention to examine the steps required for them to do so and called upon all States which have ratified the Convention to take steps to implement it (decision 1993/13).

The Board approved a total of $599,148,598 from general resources and $371,167,000 for supplementary funding for programme cooperation in Africa, the Americas and Caribbean, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe and the Middle East and North Africa and to cover overexpenditure (decision 1993/9). Concerning global funds, the Board approved a consolidated total of $140,589,000 for general resources and $164,030,000 for supplementary funds for the period 1994-1995 (decision 1993/21).

The Executive Board also approved total expenditures of $431,363,380 for the administrative and programme support budget for the biennium 1994-1995. At the same time, the Board resolved that the Executive Director be requested to exercise maximum restraint in the implementation of the budget while ensuring the integrity and effectiveness of programme delivery (decision 1993/20).

In a decision on ensuring the survival, protection and development of children in Africa, the Executive Board reaffirmed the commitment of UNICEF to Africa as the region of highest priority at present and its commitment to assist countries in Africa to fulfil the human development goals of the 1990s, as expressed at the World Summit for Children and in the Consensus of Dakar (decision 1993/4).

In a decision on additional resources for the Special Adjustment Facility for Latin America and the Caribbean (SAFLAC) (decision 1993/10), the Board encouraged donor countries and organizations to provide additional resources for supplementary funding components of country programmes, as well as SAFLAC, to support the efforts of Latin American and Caribbean countries.

The Executive Board, in a decision on UNICEF emergency operations (decision 1993/7), called upon UNICEF to continue to undertake its primary responsibilities to assist children and women in emergencies under the overall coordination of the United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs and in close cooperation with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee on emergencies, other international agencies and non-governmental organizations. The Board also recommended a level of $14 million for the Emergency Programme Fund (EPF) for the biennium 1994-1995 and decided to review, if necessary before the end of 1993, the EPF funding level for 1994-1995, after the deliberations on the coordination of humanitarian assistance of the United Nations at the 1993 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council and/or the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

As for UNICEF involvement in family planning, the Board urged the Executive Director to undertake, as part of UNICEF support for maternal and child health and family planning, the promotion of sexual and reproductive health, with particular attention to the needs of young people, including education regarding responsible sexual behaviour. The Board also invited the governing bodies of the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Population Fund and other concerned United Nations agencies to collaborate fully with UNICEF child survival and development

efforts as part of their support for family planning and related activities in developing countries (decision 1993/11).

The Board endorsed a two-pronged approach to the problems of the urban poor, consisting of an urban focus in all sectoral programmes and a revitalized urban basic services strategy, including the provision of social services and the promotion of employment. This approach comprises four main thrusts: achievement of national decade goals for children, along with a balanced approach to rural as well as urban poverty reduction; action on primary environmental care; attention to children in especially difficult circumstances; and application of the concept of "urban development with a human face" (decision 1993/8).

In a decision on children, environment and development and the UNICEF response to Agenda 21 (decision 1993/14), the Executive Board requested the Executive Director to transmit to the Commission on Sustainable Development the goals and strategies for children in the 1990s for its deliberations on the multi-year thematic programme of work at its first substantive session and in the monitoring of progress concerning the implementation of Agenda 21.

The Board called for full compliance by all manufacturers and distributors of breast-milk substitutes with government actions prohibiting the distribution of free or low-cost supplies of infant formula by June 1993. The Board also called on Governments in industrialized countries to take action appropriate to their social and legislative framework and their overall development objectives to end the distribution of free and low-cost supplies of infant formula in industrialized countries by June 1994, to coincide with the date of the Directive of the Commission of the European Community on infant formulae and follow-on formulae (91/321/EEC) comes into force (decision 1993/15).

Regarding the UNICEF/WHO Joint Committee on Health Policy (JCHP), the Board endorsed the recommendations of JCHP made at its meeting in Geneva on 1-3 February 1993 concerning follow-up to the World Summit for Children; maternal health and newborn care; vaccine needs; control of diarrhoeal diseases, including cholera and acute respiratory infections; implementation of the "baby-friendly" hospital initiative; healthy lifestyles for youth; health education; and malaria control (decision 1993/16).

In its decision 1993/3 on strengthening national capacities, the Executive Board requested the Executive Director to include in future country programmes plans for UNICEF support for national plans for enhanced institutional development and other capacity-building measures; to support countries in the development of indicators for the monitoring of the institutional development plans; and to include in his annual reports information by region on the experience gained.

In a decision on the UNICEF evaluation process (decision 1993/5), the Board requested the Executive Director to ensure that country programme evaluations become an integral part of the country programming exercise, with the view to providing better assessments of the performance of UNICEF; to include in his report on evaluation presented to the Board every second year a summary of the results of UNICEF programme and project evaluations; to refine the UNICEF evaluation information system as part of the process of reshaping the overall information system for programme planning and management, which is currently under development; and to continue to collaborate with the Joint Consultative Group on Policy to work towards the adoption by the operational agencies of the United Nations system of similar evaluation summary reporting systems and formats.

Regarding the evaluation of UNICEF initiated by the Governments of Australia, Canada, Denmark and Switzerland, the Board invited Governments, UNICEF and other partners at the field level to present their views on the issues covered in the evaluation to ascertain how these can benefit their work. The Executive Director was requested to analyse the responses received and to report back to the Board at its 1994 session on the experience gained and suggestions for further use to which elements of the evaluation might be put. The Board invited interested parties to establish in New York, with the assistance of the secretariat, an open-ended working group to identify issues in the evaluation that merit further consideration and to report back to the Board at its 1994 session with proposals for dealing with those issues (decision 1993/6).

Concerning headquarters office accommodation, the Board requested the Executive Director to obtain from the United Nations Development Corporation and New York City and from the City of New Rochelle by 30 June 1993, at the latest, firm offers for options in New York City and New Rochelle. The Executive Director was requested to analyse each of those final and firm offers with the input of an independent real estate consultant and to submit the final offers and his analysis and possible recommendations to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions by 31 July 1993. The Board decided to convene a two-day special session no later than 15 September 1993 to take a decision to enable the Executive Director to sign an agreement at the earliest possible date (decision 1993/22).

In its decision 1993/23, the Executive Board decided that an independent administrative and management review should be carried out by external consultants, in close cooperation with the secretariat. The review should be finalized by the end of 1994 and the consultants' report presented to the Executive Board. The Board requested the Executive Director to take into account all its comments in the revision of the outline of the management study and requested that the revised outline, including the draft terms of reference and a budget, be presented to the Board at its 1994 winter organizational session for approval before the study is executed.

The Board approved the medium-term plan (E/ICEF/1993/3) as an indicative framework of projections for 1993-1996, including the preparation of up to $330 million in programme expenditures from general resources to be submitted to the 1994 Executive Board. The amount is subject to the availability of resources and to the condition that estimates of income and expenditure made in the plan continue to be valid (decision 1993/17).

Regarding the Greeting Card and related operations (GCO), the Board approved for the fiscal year 1 May 1993 to 30 April 1994 total budgeted expenditures of $69.2 million (decision 1993/24) and took note of several GCO financial reports (decision 1993/25).

The Board authorized the Executive Director to close the two special accounts for the World Summit for Children by transferring the balance remaining, a total of $122,533.65, to general resources (decision 1993/18); approved the level of the reserve for procurement services at $2 million and took note of a number of financial reports (decision 1993/19).

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

1. The Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) held its 1993 regular session at United Nations Headquarters from 26 April to 7 May 1993. Officers of the Executive Board for the period 1 August 1992 to 31 July 1993 were as follows:*

Chairman: Mr. Frederick Ward (Canada)

First Vice-Chairman: Miss Maymouna Diop (Senegal)

Second Vice-Chairman: Dr. Vaclav Vacek (Czech Republic)

Third Vice-Chairman: H.E. Dr. Jayaraj Acharya (Nepal)

Fourth Vice-Chairman: H.E. Dr. Lucille Mair (Jamaica)

Chairman, Programme Committee: H.E. Dr. Roberto Mayorga-Cortés (Nicaragua)

Vice-Chairman, Programme Committee: Mr. Sher Afgan Khan (Pakistan) **

Chairman, Committee on Administration and Finance: Ms. Birte Poulsen (Denmark)

Vice-Chairman, Committee on Administration and Finance: Miss Khadijatu Mansaray (Sierra Leone)

2. The agenda of the 1993 session, as adopted, is contained in document E/ICEF/1993/1/Rev.1 and Corr.1. A list of documents issued in connection with the 1993 session is contained in document E/ICEF/1993/INF/2. The Programme Committee, sitting as a committee of the whole, met from 28 April to 3 May and on 7 May. (The report of the Committee is contained in annex 1.) The Committee on Administration and Finance, also sitting as a committee of the whole, met from 3 to 5 May and on 7 May. (The report of the Committee is contained in annex II.)

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* The Executive Board, with its membership as at 1 August 1993, held its organizations session to elect officers for the period 1 August 1993 to 31 July 1994 at United Nations Headquarters on 7 June 1993. The report on the organizational session is contained in document E/ICEF/1993/15.

** Elected on 26 April 1993.

II. PLENARY MEETINGS

Awards

UNICEF Maurice Pate Award

3. The 1993 UNICEF Maurice Pate Award (E/ICEF/1993/P/L.1) was presented to the people and State of Ceara, Brazil (see chap. IV, decision 1993/1). The award, decided upon at the UNICEF winter organizational session held at United Nations Headquarters on 9 and 10 February 1993, noted that it is possible to make significant child survival and development gains, despite serious constraints, if there is a leadership that is committed to saving and improving the lives of children. The Government - and people - of Ceara have managed to overcome the setbacks of both a recession and drought and have reduced infant mortality by one third, child deaths from diarrhoeal diseases by one half and child malnutrition by one third. Ceara has, indeed, put into practice the principle of a "first call for children".

Staff Awards

4. The Deputy Executive Director, Operations, announced that the 1993 Staff Awards had been presented to four offices and three individuals: the Afghanistan Office under the leadership of Mr. Ekrem Birerdinc, for the work done in crisis situations, often at great personal risk, to reach and assist children and women; the Liberia Office, under the leadership of Mr. Carl Tinstman, for working non-stop to ensure the provision of water and health services, including emergency vaccination campaigns, in an acute emergency situation; the Buenos Aires sub-office, for achievements in the pivotal and dynamic field of communication and social mobilization; the Programme Communications and Information Section in Dhaka, Bangladesh, for their contributions in promoting participatory training and decision-making methodology and for improving the education of the girl child; Mr. Stewart McNab, for developing and implementing the UNICEF winter emergency programme in the three northern governorates of Iraq, showing imagination and courage; Mr. Mark Stirling, for his remarkable leadership and guidance under extremely difficult and dangerous conditions in Somalia; and Ms. Rosalyn Oming, for her dedicated service to the Somalia Emergency Operation.

Tributes

5. Many delegations paid tribute to the heroic efforts of UNICEF staff members who lost their lives in the past year in Somalia and the Sudan: Roko Konyen Biron of the Sudan, missing and presumed dead in the Sudan; Sean Devereux of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, killed in Somalia; Myint-Maung of Myanmar, killed in the Sudan; Mr. Mohammed of Somalia, killed in Somalia; Mohammed Ker Dahir of Kenya, who died in Kenya; and Francis Ngure of Kenya, killed in the Sudan. They were remembered for the sacrifices they made in the course of helping African women and children. Tribute was paid to their commitment, courage and dedication in carrying out the UNICEF mandate in increasingly dangerous environments. Several delegations expressed deep concern for the safety of staff and indicated the need for the United Nations to address this issue in order to ensure the future security of all United Nations staff.

6. A number of delegations mourned the passing of, and paid tribute to, Audrey Hepburn, beloved ambassador of the world's children, and Larry Bruce, President of the United States Committee for UNICEF.

Board matters

7. Many delegations expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to take part in or host Executive Board field visits. Other delegations indicated that this was a very effective way to link policy-making with the realities in the field and to gain first-hand knowledge of UNICEF programmes. One delegation said that this type of

participation on the part of Board members allows them to see UNICEF policies at work at the grass-roots level and will contribute greatly to future deliberations. Many felt that such visits should continue and be further encouraged.

8. Another delegation acknowledged the excellent work undertaken by the Secretary of the Executive Board, who will retire after this year's Board session.

9. One delegation reminded the Board of the need for UNICEF to share its experience in the preparatory process for the World Summit for Social Development, as stated in General Assembly resolution 47/92 of 16 December 1992.

Programme matters

10. Delegations welcomed the progress being made at many levels on behalf of children around the world, in what was generally felt to be an environment of unprecedented support for children. Governments were nearing or attaining a number of the goals to which they committed themselves at the World Summit for Children, formulating national programmes of action (NPAs) and ratifying the Convention on the Rights of the Child in nearly record numbers.

11. At the same time, however, many delegations voiced concern about the levels of instability, poverty and violence in the world, pointing to the coexistence of both opportunities and challenges in this era of rapid change ushered in by the end of the cold war. Nations are developing new relations, facing complex problems and struggling under growing levels of poverty, environmental degradation and economic crisis.

12. Numerous delegations deplored the growth in the numbers of wars and conflicts in the world, citing the extreme effect such crises have on the most vulnerable in all societies, the children. The need to create an atmosphere of peace and tolerance was cited as an imperative.

13. Delegations expressed their profound awareness of the magnitude and increasing complexity of the tasks facing UNICEF, as well as gratitude for its exemplary work on behalf of children.

World Summit goals and follow-up and the Convention on the Rights of the Child

14. A large number of delegations expressed support for the goals endorsed at the World Summit for Children, for NPAs (which countries are preparing to translate those goals into reality) and for the Convention on the Rights of the Child. All three converge to give Governments and others powerful tools in defense of children. The strong popular and political support in many countries for the three was cited by many delegations as evidence of the growing consensus that children's rights and welfare are important national priorities.

15. Several delegations commended the Executive Director's call for universal ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, with one delegation suggesting that the Executive Board of UNICEF should make a strong statement urging ratification of the Convention (see also chap. IV, decision 1993/13).

16. Several ratifying countries explained that national laws were being reviewed to conform with the Convention and that new laws were being drafted to comply with its provisions. Another delegation suggested that the standards of the Convention should be included when UNICEF prepares country programmes.

17. A significant number of interventions dealt with the formulation and implementation of NPAs, which were widely hailed by speakers as concrete expressions of countries' commitments to children. Several delegations described their programmes' targets as ensuring the basic health, nutritional welfare, social security and education of their children. Other vital areas of concern were environmental issues, the development of the girl child and the protection of children in especially difficult circumstances.

18. A number of delegations highlighted the decentralized approach their countries were taking, with regional and local authorities playing important roles. The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation was praised for its active endorsement of children's issues and its creation of a regional plan of action. The role played by the First Ladies of Latin American and Caribbean States in Summit follow-up and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child was also commended. Several speakers welcomed the opportunity that NPAs provided in drawing new actors from the public as well as the private sector into the development process, with the involvement of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) given special mention.

19. A number of delegations felt that NPAs would be most effective if they were included in overall development policies, and several delegations explained the close connection between their countries' NPA and long-range development plans. One delegation called the NPA the cornerstone of social and economic development in the nation. Several speakers commended the NPAs prepared by African countries, which were presented at the International Conference on Assistance to African Children (ICAAC) in Dakar, Senegal, in November 1992.

20. The rather formidable financial burden NPAs posed for developing countries was touched upon by a number of speakers who hoped that assistance from donors would be forthcoming; several applauded the process being followed in selected countries whereby debt was converted into resources for funding NPAs.

21. Several Board member delegations regretted that political and economic factors had delayed or prevented the formulation of an NPA. One speaker said the countries of Central and Eastern Europe needed to formulate NPAs.

22. One delegation called on the Executive Director to review and report on the limitations and constraints of NPAs, offering suggested actions to accelerate the achievement of goals, particularly those in the areas of safe water supply and sanitation (see also chap. IV, decision 1993/12).

UNICEF priority for Africa

23. Executive Board decision 1992/21 (E/ICEF/1992/14), which reaffirmed that Africa should continue to be the region of highest priority, was recalled. One delegation noted that the situation of children and women in Africa has not improved and, in some cases, has even deteriorated because of the negative impact of the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) pandemic, a general lack of resources and a continuing debt burden. Several delegations expressed the need for a fresh start for Africa in the 1990s based on new initiatives. A renewed commitment of the international community to the plight of Africa was called for, as this is one of the most important issues on the international agenda in the post-cold war era. Hope was expressed for strong participation in the Tokyo International Conference on Development. Another delegation suggested that debt relief and the cancellation of debt for the countries of this region should be encouraged. The effect of the 1992 drought was noted and the plight of children in sub-Saharan Africa was stressed. One delegation stated that while infant mortality has declined in Asia, it is actually rising in Africa. However, another delegation said that giving priority to Africa should not hinder efforts in other regions.

24. Many delegations noted the achievements of ICAAC. It was felt that the conference provided countries of the region and their partners with a good opportunity to assess the current situation and to move more quickly to prepare and complete NPAs. The "Consensus of Dakar" placed responsibility for achieving goals and targets with African Governments, while recognizing the valuable assistance the international community and donors can provide. Several delegations called the Consensus a milestone in efforts to help African children and women. One delegation expressed its appreciation for assistance rendered by UNICEF throughout the preparatory process for the conference and also applauded the donor community and international and local NGOs for their contributions. One delegation emphasized the importance of bringing these groups together with ministers of planning, health, finance and others to discuss common problems. Another delegation expressed the hope that UNICEF, in its follow-up to the Conference, will reinforce its cooperation

with the Organization of African Unity, the African Development Bank and the Economic Commission for Africa.

25. One delegation expressed concern that UNICEF places too much emphasis on social services, to the detriment of capacity-building and empowerment. Another delegation noted the increase of UNICEF programme expenditure in Africa in 1992 and welcomed the intention of the organization to strengthen and open new field offices.

26. Many delegations highlighted the Bamako Initiative (see document E/ICEF/1993/L.6) in discussing the plight of Africa. One delegation stated that the Initiative, launched in 1987, is already being implemented in 23 countries and has managed to meld the private and public sectors. It was stated, however, that efforts have been hampered by insufficient funding and by such natural phenomena as desertification. One delegation proposed that the work already done should be complemented by reviewing health care financing at the district level. Another delegation emphasized the importance of community participation in the local control of resources, which will lead to greater effectiveness and efficiency in the delivery of local health services. This is also a key element of empowerment and capacity-building, which, with decentralization, lead to sustainable health care. One delegation pointed to the family and household as key to revitalizing health systems (see also chap. IV, decision 1993/4).

Child survival, protection and development

27. Many delegations described the significant impact of their immunization programmes on reducing of mortality and disability and reaffirmed the importance of, and urged strong support for, the Children's Vaccine Initiative (see document E/ICEF/1993/L.3). Several delegations described the significant impact of immunization programmes in measles control, polio eradication and the elimination of neonatal tetanus. One delegation reported on efforts in Central America to reduce the incidence of malaria and dengue and to vaccinate all children under the age of 15 against measles by 1997. One Board member country was pleased to report that it had achieved universal child immunization in 1989 and maintained it for four years. Several national immunization campaigns were reported to immunize children against the most common childhood diseases and to immunize women of reproductive age against tetanus toxoid. Another delegation reported that tremendous progress had been made, increasing immunization coverage from less than 5 per cent in 1985 to more than 80 per cent in 1991. It was noted, however, that several countries, for the most part in Africa, have experienced large decreases in immunization coverage.

28. It was reported that the next meeting of the First Ladies of Latin American and Caribbean States will focus on the elimination of neonatal tetanus. Many delegations highlighted the importance of community-based action in their successful control of diarrhoeal diseases campaigns. Other participants described the successful vaccination drives in their countries and mobilization of leaders, while focusing on disadvantaged districts. Yet many speakers described the need for urgent action to control deaths due to diarrhoeal diseases, because the mid-decade goal of 80 per cent oral rehydration use rates after more than a decade of promotion have reached only 45 per cent. A number of delegations encouraged more attention to controlling acute respiratory infections, particularly pneumonia, as this remains the largest killer of young children in many developing countries.

29. Many delegations stressed the importance of water supply and sanitation in satisfying the basic needs of women and children. Others claimed that this is a basic human right. A number of delegations reported that their NPAs contained provisions for this area of concern.

30. With regard to the urban poor, some delegations indicated that this sector was particularly important. One delegation reported that 80 per cent of its population now has access to a clean and safe water supply, making it one of the few South Asian countries to achieve the targets of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade. Several delegations said that good progress was being made. One delegation indicated that acceleration of service coverage was needed and requested that a review of NPAs be made to suggest ways to accelerate this coverage. A number of delegations indicated, however, that funding was a problem.

31. The Board was also reminded of the continuing problems of street children, who need both social services and clean water supply and sanitation. Abandoned children are another group that need UNICEF attention. One delegation described a programme to arrest the problem of street children before it grows out of proportion; this programme includes community-based programmes aimed at raising awareness of the rights of the child. Another delegation stressed the importance of assistance to the disabled to curb the incidence of disablement and address the needs of disabled infants and young children. The delegation noted the important work UNICEF has done to establish an organization for aid to disabled infants in their country.

32. A number of delegations stated that infant mortality had dropped dramatically due to successful immunization activities and thanked UNICEF for its technical and financial cooperation in formulating plans and developing programmes that have contributed to this success. One delegation reported a drop of 50 per cent in infant mortality between 1976 and 1992. Another speaker suggested that those countries with higher maternal and infant mortality rates should be given greater support.

"Baby-friendly" hospital initiative/breast-feeding and nutrition

33. The importance of the "baby-friendly" hospital initiative was affirmed and several delegations reconfirmed their commitment. Several delegations stated that hospitals in their countries had been designated as baby-friendly and efforts were under way to comply with the "10 steps for successful breastfeeding". One delegation congratulated those countries that had banned the distribution of free and low-cost supplies of formula to health care facilities by the target date of December 1992 and proposed to the Board that UNICEF be encouraged to evaluate how well manufacturers and distributors are complying with these Governments' actions.

34. It was suggested that UNICEF focus its efforts on obstacles to breast-feeding which are not linked to maternity hospitals or product promotion, namely the conditions of mothers in their local community - especially those working outside the home. One delegation stated that it is highly committed to the baby-friendly initiative: an official breast-feeding policy has been issued by its Ministry of Health and Social Services; training of trainers will be conducted in the first half of 1993; and the number of health facilities designated as baby- and mother-friendly is being expanded. Another delegation described its child survival and safe motherhood programme, in collaboration with UNICEF and the World Bank, which serves as the basis of its efforts to achieve the goals of its NPA. The importance of growth monitoring was described as an important aspect of the work of central and village health centres in many countries (see also chap. IV, decision 1993/15.).

35. One delegation stated that although nutrition is a sector to which UNICEF rightly devotes considerable attention, the Executive Director's report made no mention of the 1992 International Conference on Nutrition. It was felt that household food security is a decisive factor in ensuring nutritional well-being, and information was requested on how UNICEF has helped countries provide improved food security. Concern was also expressed that too much emphasis has been placed on micronutrient supplementation.

36. Many delegations highlighted the fact that undernutrition continues to be the major problem in most of the developing world. Nutrition is a multisectoral problem requiring a very high degree of commitment and consensus about the nature of the problem and steps required to counter it at the highest policy-making levels of Government. It was hoped that nutrition will find a permanent place on the development agenda and a number of delegations supported the Executive Director's proposals in this regard.

37. Several delegations described their countries' attempts to combat high levels of anaemia and iodine and vitamin A deficiency. One delegation descried its Government's strategies to eliminate iodine deficiency disorders, including advocacy for legislation to enforce salt iodation, training of health workers, public education, integration with other primary health care activities, mobilization of the private sector (especially salt importers and distributors) and collaboration with neighbouring countries.

Human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immune deficiency syndrome

38. Many delegations indicated that human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)/AIDS is a health problem for young people, as the majority of those who become HIV-infected do so before they reach 25 years of age. In this connection, UNICEF was encouraged to increase its efforts to provide youth with direct information in the crucial years before they become sexually active. One delegation stressed the need for the participation of community and religious groups to inform youth of the risks and to promote a healthy life-style founded on moral principles. Another delegation emphasized the responsibility of parents to educate their children in accordance with their own traditions and values.

39. Several delegations expressed alarm that AIDS has become an obstacle to the reduction of infant mortality, as child survival initiatives themselves are being threatened by the spread of HIV, especially in certain areas of sub-Saharan Africa. One delegation regretted what they considered a reluctance to integrate AIDS prevention measures into ongoing health activities despite the rapid spread of the disease. Many delegations said they would welcome UNICEF support to their national efforts.

40. One delegation spoke eloquently on the plight of children orphaned as a result of AIDS and said that it was clearly within the mandate of UNICEF to do everything possible to ease their suffering. Another delegation requested that UNICEF collaborate more closely with the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Programme on AIDS and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in combating the disease. One delegation described his country's AIDS education programme, which is being considered as a model for the entire Latin American region.

Reproductive health

41. Population increase was cited by a number of speakers as a factor leading to greater poverty, environmental degradation and hunger. The need to stem the increase was seen as an important concern by a number of delegations from both developing and donor countries. Several speakers referred to a basic human right to reproductive health and rights. Another delegation emphasized that family planning services and information should form the foundation for all social sector interventions, using innovative community-based approaches to reach recipients. One delegation said that the increased time and resources that spaced births made available for both mothers and children were vital in improving the quality of life. A number of speakers said that the provision of reproductive health and family planning information and efforts would also be invaluable in helping to contain the spread of HIV/AIDS. One delegation stressed that all measures to promote family planning needed to be taken with a clear awareness of community and cultural sensitivities.

42. The possible overlap of UNICEF family planning activities with such United Nations agencies and organizations as UNFPA and WHO was acknowledged. Close collaboration to avoid duplication was urged; a suggestion was made that UNICEF concentrate on information, education and communication activities.

Education

43. In the view of a number of delegations, education, described as vital in building sustainable development, continues to be an area in need of strong support and new strategies. One delegation spoke of the need for curriculum reform and structural changes; another noted with satisfaction the increase in UNICEF spending on education in 1991 and 1992. Several delegations called attention to the large proportion of the budget their Governments were now devoting to educational programmes and reaffirmed the consensus that emerged at the World Conference on Education for All in Jomtien, Thailand, in 1990.

44. The crippling illiteracy of many women and the problems associated with the education of girls were noted by some speakers as areas warranting special attention. Factors that eroded educational progress, according to delegations, included shortages of books and other supplies, inadequate buildings and the need for students to travel long distances to school, all of which contributed to high

drop-out rates. Among the strategies mentioned to retain students in schools were the introduction of compulsory primary education, free primary schooling for girls and special interventions in the first two grades, including automatic promotion, the provision of school lunches and the assignment of the most highly-skilled teachers to the two grades.

Women and the girl child

45. Low status and systematic discrimination were identified by a number of speakers as core issues to be tackled in addressing the often deeply disadvantaged position of women and girls in many societies. Education and training programmes for women were said to be crucial in helping to elevate the status of girls and women, as were the creation of employment opportunities and credit schemes for women in the informal sector. Effective communication strategies were also needed to help change social attitudes about such issues as early marriage and motherhood and influence those who make decisions affecting girls and women.

46. Although UNICEF advocacy on behalf of women was commended in the multi-donor evaluation (see document E/ICEF/1993/CRP.7), a gender weakness in UNICEF programming was identified and some speakers urged UNICEF to ensure that all policies and programmes contain an adequate gender perspective so that resources are readily available for projects benefiting girls and women.

47. One delegation said that increased awareness, heightened political will and concerted programming were vital in affecting change on behalf of women. Several speakers described activities designed to help girls and women achieve more equal participation in society.

Environment

48. Several delegations pointed to the relevance of the environment in much of UNICEF work. Many delegations made the connection between environmental degradation and poverty in all its manifestations (hunger, disease and inadequate shelter). The inclusion of the goals of the World Summit for Children in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development Agenda 21 was applauded, as it accorded a "first call" to tomorrow's children in the use of the earth's finite resources. One delegation suggested that UNICEF monitor, in collaboration with the Commission on Sustainable Development, how the Summit goals are being pursued.

49. A number of delegations commended the primary environmental care (PEC) approach and agreed with the recommendation of the Executive Director to provide seed funds to UNICEF partners to initiate innovative PEC activities, encouraging social mobilization through schools and health centres and supporting advocacy campaigns to incorporate the concerns of children and women at the local, regional and national level (see document E/ICEF/1993/L.2). Generally it was considered important to link the environment with an active and flexible development strategy. Many delegations urged approval of the global fund for the environment. A number of delegations stated that if sustainable development is to become a reality, it must include population growth and family planning.

50. One delegation stated very strongly that the right to a healthy environment is a basic human right and environmentally sound policies are essential. He reported that there are serious environmental problems in his country that are affecting the health of women and children and requested emergency assistance from the international community to address them (see also chap. IV, decision 1993/14).

Central and Eastern Europe, the Baltic States and the new independent States

51. A number of delegations expressed appreciation for the assistance UNICEF has given children of Central and Eastern Europe, the Baltic States and the new independent States, in accordance with UNICEF Executive Board decisions 1991/20 (E/ICEF/1991/15) and 1992/19 (E/ICEF/1992/14). Several delegations affirmed that severe shortages of medical supplies and equipment continued in these countries due to economic instabilities, the collapse of trading relations and the transition to the market system. These factors had combined with growing poverty and serious environmental problems to put children and mothers in many of the countries at

severe risk of malnutrition, illness and high mortality, according to several speakers.

52. Support was expressed for programme proposals for the country programmes currently before the Executive Board. However, one delegation cautioned the Board to consider the relatively high level of development and economic potential that existed in many of the countries, adding that humanitarian assistance should be provided on a short-term basis so that resources would not be deflected from developing countries in greater distress. Another delegation stressed that countries meeting the criteria for UNICEF assistance should receive such help.

53. One speaker pointed out that the affected countries were not in competition with developing countries and hoped that aid would be available on the basis of the needs of children, and that the countries' reliance on aid would be for a limited time only. Another speaker thanked the UNICEF office in Geneva for its help to children in dangerous areas of Eastern Europe and the new independent States and went on to say that the International Child Development Centre in Florence would play an important role in formulating programmes in the areas under discussion and monitoring their effectiveness.

54. Strong inter-agency collaboration was said to be important in addressing the difficulties in the countries. The meeting was told that Central and Eastern Europe was an area of priority attention for the NGO Committee on UNICEF and that considerable numbers of NGOs were emerging in the countries and proving effective and innovative agents in protecting children.

Emergency operations

55. The trauma inflicted on innocent populations, especially children and women, in many regions of the world through war, civil strife and violence was the subject of a large number of interventions. Delegations strongly supported the rapid and efficient response of UNICEF to children and women in such emergency situations, which many referred to as integral to the organization's mandate and which also reinforces the positive image of the organization in world opinion.

56. However, the costs of conflicts were said by another delegation to be a drain on the political energies and economic resources of the world. A number of participants, concerned about the weight of the burden, asked UNICEF to ensure that supplementary funds remain the funding source for emergency programmes, with general resources used exclusively for long-term development. Several delegations said they felt greater funding was needed to meet emergency needs and one endorsed the proposal to expand the Emergency Programme Fund. One donor country, saying it was forced by economic difficulties to reduce its contributions to general resources, nevertheless pledged substantial supplementary funds for activities in Somalia and the former Yugoslavia.

57. Many delegations underlined the need for relief operations to be followed by rehabilitation and long-term development, as well as capacity-building, within the framework of the country programme. In this connection, one delegation noted with satisfaction that the new UNICEF emergency policy helped to promote long-term development. Another delegation felt that the Executive Board had a responsibility to give the secretariat clear directives with regard to emergency interventions. A number of interventions affirmed that continued close coordination with the United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA) was essential in responding to emergencies.

58. Many delegations noted that attention to the "loud" emergencies of war had to be balanced with that for the "silent" emergencies created by poverty and disease. As one delegation said, the children of Latin America suffered the least of all regions from emergencies but felt the numerous ill effects of the region's poverty. Several delegations referred to the far greater toll on children's lives taken by poverty, disease and ignorance; one delegation hoped that emergencies would not deflect attention and resources from the development needs of sub-Saharan Africa.

59. Delegations from countries receiving emergency assistance warmly thanked UNICEF. One speaker requested that its programme of cooperation with UNICEF be reformulated to address current needs created by conflict more effectively.

60. The deleterious effects of sanctions on children were raised by two delegations. One delegation reported that a trade embargo was seriously affecting the level of child welfare in his country, as much-needed medical supplies were being denied entry. Another speaker expressed dismay that the effects of war have been devastating to the childen of his country, causing disease, malnutrition and the collapse of a well-established health care system, resulting primarily from the embargo on his country. He went on to say that the embargo is an act of discrimination against children which threatens their human rights. Another delegation agreed with the sentiments expressed in paragraph 51 of the report on "UNICEF emergency operations" (E/ICEF/1993/11), saying that the sanctions deserved urgent reconsideration because those most affected were not those whose actions the sanctions presumed to affect.

61. Concern was expressed that modern warfare includes strategies that kill and maim civilians, including children, in greater proportions than soldiers and that many combatants are not aware that children are protected by international law. The need for increased emphasis on rehabilitating children traumatized by war was stressed. The problem of land mines was also addressed and one delegation asked that efforts be made to remove them as soon as possible.

62. Two speakers described the care they were providing for large numbers of refugees caused by civil strife in neighbouring countries. Attending to the needs of the refugees streaming across their borders greatly exceeded available resources, creating a drain on scarce national resources. They called for increased efforts to resolve or prevent conflict, as well as increased international burden-sharing (see also chap. IV, decision 1993/7).

United Nations restructuring and inter-agency coordination

63. A majority of the delegations addressed this very timely and important issue. General Assembly resolution 47/199 of 22 December 1992 was seen as a major milestone in the post-cold war era. It was noted that this type of cooperation was also outlined in resolutions 44/211 of 22 December 1989 and 46/182 of 19 December 1991, which included inter-agency needs assessment missions, the Central Emergency Revolving Fund, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and consolidated appeals. One delegation expressed concern that progress was very slow in implementing these resolutions and suggested that UNICEF take the initiative rather than simply wait for system-wide change.

64. A number of delegations referred to reforms that may result from the General Assembly ad hoc group on restructuring and stressed that these reforms must support, and not undermine, the effectiveness of UNICEF efforts. One delegation welcomed the transformation of current governing bodies into smaller boards. They stressed that reforms should be a means towards ensuring increased coordination, efficiency and effectiveness, reducing administrative expenditure, and increasing efficiency and the quality and impact of assistance. Other delegations emphasized that in the restructuring process, the United Nations system should maximize the comparative advantage and country-level accessibility of the various bodies and organizations while protecting the flexibility and rapid response capacity of such agencies as UNICEF.

65. Some delegations warned, however, that for almost 50 years UNICEF has enjoyed public confidence which enables a global and comprehensive policy for children and that this should not be lost in the process of restructuring. Another delegation noted that it is the very uniqueness of UNICEF that enables the organization to expand its activities continuously and win wide popularity. It was felt by many speakers that UNICEF must maintain its ability to (a) act on the ground without the impediments of a complicated bureaucracy; (b) advocate on behalf of children without becoming involved in broader political issues; and (c) mobilize international support for children, without identification with other issues. A number of delegations, however, reminded that the organization should not be so unique that it does not see itself as a member of a team.

66. Many delegations supported the initiatives undertaken to ensure more active inter-agency participation in assessment missions to achieve common goals and strategies at the field level. Other delegations commended UNICEF for the initiatives taken in connection with General Assembly resolution 47/199, including developing a country strategy note, formulating a proposal on common premises and undertaking consultations with all UNICEF representatives to strengthen the resident coordinator system.

67. It was suggested that UNICEF not involve itself in areas where other United Nations agencies are already engaged. Several delegations agreed that UNICEF should coordinate its activities while maintaining its autonomy and identity. The issue of common premises should be approached on a case-by-case basis.

68. Numerous delegations emphasized the importance of coordination with the newly created DHA. Another delegation suggested that coordination should reach to national structures of recipient countries and to NGOs.

69. One delegation said that enhanced cooperation would be very effective in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the new independent States, as well as in peace-keeping operations.

Multi-donor evaluation

70. The analysis and recommendations of the evaluation report presented earlier in the year by the Governments of Australia, Canada, Denmark and Switzerland and submitted in summary to the Executive Board (E/ICEF/1993/CRP.7) were noted with approval by many members of the Board, who called the report a helpful tool in strengthening UNICEF. A number of delegations pointed to the evaluation's summary of UNICEF strategies as a particularly useful synthesis. The strategies identified by the evaluation were: (a) delivery of social services; (b) capacity-building; and (c) empowerment of target groups.

71. Board members generally concurred with the evaluation that the best developmental approach appeared to be a carefully balanced mix of these strategies, based on the needs and priorities of each country and retaining a strong country programme orientation, which several delegations called the "backbone" of the UNICEF approach.

72. A number of delegations noted that UNICEF had distinguished itself by successful delivery of social services. One delegation felt that service delivery was a vital part of the work of UNICEF, while another commented that fulfilment of needs does not necessarily lead to development.

73. Several delegations said that UNICEF appeared to have given the strategies of capacity-building and empowerment less emphasis than service delivery. Because these two former areas were identified as crucial to long-term development, speakers stressed the need of UNICEF to go farther in helping to empower community members, particularly women, to become involved in choosing, planning and carrying out activities based on the community's needs.

74. In this regard, concern was expressed that the setting of global goals could displace country and community priorities and even act as a constraint to long-term development. Some speakers urged that goals be used only as guidelines, to be adapted as needed by countries. Delegations also said that UNICEF should limit the number of initiatives it launched and concentrate instead on sustainable accomplishments.

75. Advocacy was highlighted by a number of delegations as a crucial component of both capacity-building and empowerment, with a careful balance of advocacy and the other elements urged.

76. One of the reservations expressed about the evaluation concerned the composition of the evaluation group, which had not included members from developing countries. Another reservation was related to the limited ability of UNICEF to expand its activities in the areas of empowerment and capacity-building without additional resources.

77. In the interest of ensuring clearer accountability, a number of delegations felt that greater monitoring and evaluation of programmes were needed, along with transparent information about their proven effectiveness. In this regard, several speakers proposed that regular independent studies be carried out to help Board members gauge the impact of programmes. Three delegations felt that a management review would be valuable (see also chap. IV, decision 1993/23).

78. A suggestion was made by delegations that respect for democracy and human rights be integrated in all development efforts and that UNICEF be both a favoured and a critical partner in its cooperation with Governments. However, several others urged UNICEF to retain its neutrality and not to associate political conditions with its programming.

79. Several speakers said that they looked forward to discussing and deciding on the steps now needed to implement the report's recommendations (see also chap. IV, decision 1993/6).

Poverty, structural adjustment and debt

80. A large number of delegations referred to the destructive burdens of poverty and debt borne by many people around the world which impede social development and progress, with children disproportionately affected. As one delegation said, "The majority of the poor are children and the majority of children are poor". A number of delegations expressed appreciation of UNICEF support to urban needs and the urban poor and urged more action along the same lines (see also chap. IV, decision 1993/8).

81. Greater social justice and more equitable distribution of wealth were cited by several speakers as two goals towards which the world must strive. Several Board members supported development approaches that reduced poverty.

82. Some speakers described how the growing impoverishment of their people was eroding the progress their countries had made in reducing inflation and improving production. In one instance, a delegation said that a 20 per cent increase in the number of poor was projected in this year alone.

83. Structural adjustment and debt were identified by a number of delegations as causes of the growing impoverishment of societies; one delegation said its country spent four times more on debt servicing than on health. Support for the cancellation of African debt, in particular, was expressed by several speakers.

84. One delegation outlined a series of steps to help improve the poverty profile of developing nations, including lifting trade and export restrictions, halting the decline of commodity prices and creating employment opportunities. Such measures, the speaker noted, also would help to reverse the dependency fostered by charity and aid.

85. A number of countries thanked UNICEF for its creative efforts to alleviate the worst effects of poverty, including advocating structural adjustment with a human face and formulating schemes permitting the channelling of debt-repayment resources into development efforts. Many commended the help provided by donors through the Special Adjustment Facility for Latin America and the Caribbean (SAFLAC), which UNICEF had established. Several also commended the PROANDES project supported by UNICEF.

Resource mobilization

86. Related to issues of poverty was the overriding concern of many delegations for a strong and dependable flow of resources to UNICEF, particularly as several donor countries have reduced their levels of official development assistance (ODA) because of continuing economic difficulties. A number of delegations expressed the hope that ODA levels would fall no farther and would rebound quickly so that efforts on behalf of children would receive the support they need. Other participants asked that all countries in a position to contribute towards development efforts to do so to their fullest extent. Many delegations hoped that the proportion of ODA devoted to social sector spending would reflect the 20 per cent that UNICEF has advocated.

87. Similarly, a number of participants from developing countries pointed to their efforts to increase the proportion of the national budget allocated to social sector activities to 20 per cent, as articulated in the Consensus of Dakar. Several pointed out that social spending in their countries had actually grown to between 40 and 60 per cent of national budgets. Others said that although families, communities and countries would assume the financial obligations associated with implementing their NPAs, many countries would welcome all possible assistance in meeting the increased financial obligations.

88. Several delegations pointed to the need not only for greater resources, but also for effective and creative strategies and coherent social programmes to take full advantage of the resources available. One delegation said that its innovative strategies had put it in the position of becoming a donor of social technology.

89. One delegation praised the role of the International Child Development Centre in Florence for its contributions in areas of great concern to UNICEF, such as problems affecting the urban child, and noted that the agreement for the continuation of the Centre's activities was under consideration. The delegation welcomed any action by UNICEF to find new partners to finance the Centre and its programmes.

90. Increased commitments of financial support came from several donor countries, with one delegation asserting that the industrialized world's wealth was great enough to feed the hungry at home and abroad and to immunize its own children as well as children abroad. Another delegation stressed that the donor evaluation had concluded that UNICEF was an efficient, field-oriented development agency and that this should encourage donors to contribute more to the organization.

Financial and administrative matters

Headquarters office accommodation

91. Many delegations commented on the importance of the headquarters accommodation issue (see document E/ICEF/1993/AB/L.9) and noted that as this issue has been before the Board for several years, a decision should be made this session. One delegation said that all three options outlined by the secretariat deserve serious consideration. Some delegations indicated that the New Rochelle option would provide a considerable boost to UNICEF general resources and would thus be a boost to country programmes. A number of delegations, however, shared the views expressed by the Executive Director that twin headquarters in Manhattan would be the most efficient option. Many noted the importance of non-financial factors, including the impact of moving to New Rochelle on efficiency of UNICEF staff (see also chap. IV, decision 1993/22).

Administrative and budgetary matters

92. Several delegations praised the secretariat and the Reference Group for their efforts to ensure greater clarity and transparency in the budget format. However, a number of speakers added that additional improvements were required, with several pointing to the need to clarify the operational linkage between the global funds budget and the programme support budget, as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. One delegation urged that the Executive Board guard the concept of global funds, as a tool which UNICEF has used with great innovation and skill to address various child survival problems.

93. A more precise definition of administrative costs versus programme costs was called for by one delegation. Another delegation said a comprehensive picture of personnel under the various budget categories was needed. One delegation warned that "grade creep" remained a concern, as did the allocation of project posts to headquarters, saying that any increase in headquarters posts should not be at the expense of programme delivery in the field.

94. With regard to income projections, many delegations called attention to the funding levels reached in 1992 as the highest ever in UNICEF history. A number of delegations withheld detailed comments for debate in the Committee on Administration

and Finance, but one feared projected income levels in the new budget were too optimistic and would need adjustment. Another delegation felt the projections were sound but cautioned against what appeared to be a trend towards budget growth.

95. Several speakers congratulated the secretariat on the medium-term plan (see document E/ICEF/1993/3); one praised the streamlining of the supply procurement system. Several delegations said they looked forward to resolving the issue of headquarters accommodation this year.

96. A few delegations supported the recommendation of the Advisory Committee calling for an independent management study of UNICEF operations to gauge their effectiveness and hoped that the Executive Board would endorse the recommendation (see document E/ICEF/1993/AB/L.2).

External relations

National Committees for UNICEF

97. Several delegations indicated the growing importance of their National Committees and the increased attention to children and development that has resulted from Committee work. Many delegations noted that their National Committees had taken the lead in promoting the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the baby-friendly hospital initiative and education for development. They have raised public awareness of conditions faced by children and women in developing countries and their efforts have had a synergistic effect on the Committees' already substantial fund-raising success. One delegation pointed out that in addition to the financial support, National Committees provide strong moral support and world-wide advocacy for the needs of children. Efforts range from major campaigns to smaller-scale events and training seminars.

98. Some delegations said that unsettled conditions in their countries were hampering the work of their National Committees. But other delegations indicated that despite civil strife, the Committees were making contributions to school programmes and to the construction of systems for providing drinking water and latrines. National Committees were assisting in situations of national catastrophe and emergency.

99. As indicated in the statement of the Chairperson of the Standing Group of the National Committees for UNICEF, National Committees currently contribute a full one quarter of the UNICEF budget. The strengthened position of National Committees has advanced the goals of UNICEF in many ways. Many supported ICAAC by providing the original funding and acting as conduits for information and advocacy with Governments. National Committees have also helped in the creation of new National Committees in many of the new member nations of the United Nations. The Chairperson raised the issue that it is very important that National Committees not be required to pay a 6 per cent recovery charge.

Non-governmental organizations

100. NGOs have continued to further the goals of UNICEF. Many delegations noted the critical role they are playing in the changing world order, both in the implementation of NPAs and in realizing the global goals for the year 2000. One delegation said that NGOs have long guided UNICEF in participation and empowerment strategies that are fundamental to sustained development and progress. Several delegations noted that in sensitive areas that require an in-depth knowledge of community values, such as girls' access to education and stemming the spread of AIDS, the involvement of grass-roots NGOS is indispensable. One delegation said that there is further potential to be mobilized in this regard. One country recommended that NGOs be involved in discussions of policy strategy. Another delegation said that awareness-raising has been supported by NGOS and that they also played an important role in ICAAC, where they reconfirmed their commitment to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the formulation of NPAs. One NGO noted a greater recognition by the world at large of the crucial human resources NGOs bring to the international landscape, part of the responsive citizenry who work to involve the world's peoples in the UNICEF mission.

Greeting Card and related operations

101. A number of delegations noted the important role played by Greeting Card and related operations (GCO). One delegation expressed satisfaction that management in this sector had been improved. Another speaker pointed to the positive involvement of GCO in strengthening the UNICEF presence in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. Some delegations indicated that sales had fallen due to political strife but that in spite of this the UNICEF presence, with its message for children, continued to be an important one.

III. OTHER MATTERS

Preparation for future sessions and review of documentation

102. The Secretary of the Executive Board introduced the consolidated list of documents requested for future Board sessions dated 7 May 1993. He also pointed out that in decision 1993/2 taken at the organizational session of the Executive Board held at United Nations Headquarters on 9 and 10 February 1993, the Board decided to return to the question of the structure of the Programme Committee at the present session.

103. The secretariat suggested some changes to the consolidated list of documents requested for future Board sessions, which contained new proposals made at the present session as well as those requested and agreed to in previous years.

104. Under the section on major policy papers, it was proposed that the annual document on ensuring child survival, protection and development in Africa would be more appropriately placed in the section on progress reports, since it is a subject of regular discussion and because policy does not change every year. In addition to the remaining policy document on the further elaboration of the UNICEF health strategy in the context of the Bamako Initiative (see decision 1992/22, E/ICEF/1992/14), two new items were suggested: a report on the UNICEF contribution to the upcoming World Social Summit in 1995 and a report on the UNICEF policy on women in development, the latter of which would also serve as the UNICEF contribution to the upcoming Women's Conference in 1995.

105. Under the section on progress reports, it was proposed that the progress report on implementation of the Bamako Initiative scheduled for 1994 be deleted, since a comprehensive policy paper on health, in the context of the Bamako Initiative, would be presented to the regular session of the 1994 Executive Board. A progress report on the Bamako Initiative would then be presented 1996, continuing to be presented on a biennial basis in non-budget years. As with the report on the Bamako Initiative, the progress report on women in development, including the situation of the girl child, would be presented in a policy paper in 1994; thus, a separate progress report would not be required in 1994.

106. Some further amendments to the section on progress reports were proposed. The report on global funds would be presented in non-budget years, namely, 1994 and 1996; two additional items would be examined in the report in 1994: criteria for use of Programme Funds for the 1990s Goals at headquarters and the implications of preparing future budgets reflecting the transfer of programme preparation and evaluation activities from the global funds to the administration and programme support budget (see chap. IV, decision 1993/21). For emergency operations, one report in 1994 would include information on measures taken by UNICEF to improve its emergency response capacity as well as the utilization of EPF (see chap. IV, decision 1993/7) and a description of the functions, use and procedure for tapping EPF.

107. Under the section on other reports, a document on the revised outline of the administrative and management review, including draft terms of reference and a budget, was requested for the 1994 winter organizational session (see chap. IV, decision 1993/23). It was also proposed that a report on the UNICEF role in United Nations restructuring be prepared for 1994 regular session. A report on all

elements of the structure and adequacy of the UNICEF 6 per cent recovery policy had already been requested for 1994 (see decision 1992/37, E/ICEF/1992/14).

108. In the section on annual and biennial reports, items requested include: information on the implementation of decision 1993/11 (see chap. IV) on UNICEF involvement in family planning in 1994; progress made towards universal ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, annually, until the goal of universal ratification is met (see chap. IV, decision 1993/13); a progress report on the Children's Vaccine Initiative in 1995; a progress report on HIV/AIDS in 1995; and a report on UNICEF programmes for the urban poor in 1996 (see chap. IV, decision 1993/8). It was suggested that these items should be included in the Executive Director's report. Since there was a major report on urban programmes at the present session (E/ICEF/1993/L.9), it was proposed that the first progress report on the subject be included in the Executive Director's report in 1996, continuing to be included on a biennial basis.

109. The Chairman called the attention of the Board to decision 1993/2 (see chap. IV), taken at the February organizational session, which called for consolidation and concentration of the efforts of the Board, both in policy and in other issues. As members review the consolidated list of documents requested, they should be conscious that it will be the basis for the agenda of the next regular session. Thus, the Chairman urged Board members to focus on those issues most important for deliberations at that session.

110. Several delegations stated that the UNICEF contribution to the upcoming World Social Summit should be noted under the section on other reports on the list of documents requested, rather than under the section on policy documents. One delegation, while agreeing to the notation of the document under other reports, stated that the report should not be relegated to a secondary level; the subject should be recognized as an important issue. The same delegation stated that the report on the UNICEF contribution to the World Social Summit should have a special chapter on education; alternatively, the report on education could be made in a special chapter in the report on follow-up to the World Summit for Children. This delegation also stated that the list of policy documents for 1995 should include a document on basic education, which was supported by several other delegations.

111. One delegation stated the purpose of the organizational session was to decide upon documentation. Regarding the request for a policy paper on education, the delegation stated that the subject is important and that 1995 would be an appropriate time to provide a policy statement. However, the delegation queried whether the Board had accepted this procedure for making requests for documents, especially major policy documents. The agenda, as well as documentation, should be set at the organizational session.

112. Several delegations stated that the report on women in development should be made in 1996, a non-budget year, rather than in 1995.

113. Regarding the comments on the World Social Summit, the secretariat responded that the document could be placed under the section on other reports in the consolidated list of documents requested and still be a subject of much discussion, ensured by the structure of the agenda. The secretariat acknowledged that progress reports on women in development are prepared biennially in non-budget years; during budget years, the subject is reflected in a brief section in the Executive Director's report. In general, the secretariat would like to continue the practice; however, an exception could be made in 1995 when the secretariat would provide a separate progress report on women in development because of the significance of the Women's Conference scheduled to be held in 1995 in Beijing, China.

114. On the proposal for a policy document on basic education in 1995, the secretariat shared the view that the subject is important, especially since it would be the first policy statement on education since the World Conference on Education for All, held in Jomtien, Thailand, in 1990. The secretariat would make efforts towards producing the document. Basic education would also be reflected in the document for the World Social Summit.

115. Regarding the list of documentation for future sessions, one delegation queried whethor there was duplication in the documentation required for women in development for 1995. In addition, a document on national capacity-building is requested biennially, and decision 1993/3 (see chap. IV) also requests information by region on experience gained in strengthening national capacities in the annual report of the Executive Director's.

116. The same delegation queried the difference between documents for review and those for action. At the present session, some of the documents said to be for review, also contained draft recommendations. If documents are said to be for review, recommendations should not be included. In addition, the delegation suggested that countries should be given time to implement NPAs, and queried whether the Board needed an extensive discussion of Summit follow-up every year.

117. In general, the secretariat agreed that progress reports are normally for review and need not lead to recommendations. However, when progress reports are prepared, Board members may propose recommendations. As pointed out by a number of delegations, how these recommendations are proposed and the criteria for their presence in reports needs to be discussed.

118. One delegation stated that agenda items should be indicated on the corner of the documents set before the Board, as is done in United Nations documents.

119. Regarding the request that agenda items be indicated on documents before the Board, the secretariat responded that the agenda is not finalized until well after documents are sent to the United Nations for processing, but that the secretariat would aim to complete the agenda earlier.

120. One delegation stated that the ongoing discussion on United Nations restructuring in the social, economic and related fields will have a significant impact on the organization of the work of the Executive Board. This delegation hoped that the restructuring would, in the end, facilitate the preparation, participation and productivity of the Executive Board. It was also hoped that the restructured United Nations system would be strengthened by cooperative and serious-minded Board members.

121. The same delegation supported the measures contained in decision 1993/2 on the rationalization of the work of the Board. These measures, together with a concerted effort by UNICEF and all Board members to keep decisions, reports and agendas clearly focused, would ensure that the work of the Board is thorough and efficient.

122. The same delegation noted that, unfortunately, the present session did not yet reflect a focused effort. The Board continues to struggle with an unwieldy agenda. Adherence to agreed upon time limits in speaking is an important tool in management of the agenda, yet the delegation expressed concern that the combining of agenda items makes time limits somewhat restrictive on the content of interventions. More effort must be directed towards keeping the Board agenda focused, which will only come about if Board members make deliberate choices about the kind and volume of reporting required from the organization. Careful attention also should be paid to the secretariat's annual paper on key issues, which should help Board members develop more targeted guidance for UNICEF.

123. With regard to the decision-making process, the same delegation stated that some draft decisions at the present sessions provoked hours of discussion. The delegation urged the chairmen of drafting sessions to call for informal discussions as soon as it becomes evident that reconciliation of positions is needed. In some cases, the lengthy debate was due to the Board's lack of adequate information about the work of UNICEF, and in some part, possibly due to excessive demands placed on staff members. In other cases, Board members themselves seemed to get lost in the words or were intent on introducing unnecessarily controversial terms. This sort of activity does not facilitate the work of the Board, nor does it provide the clear and appropriate guidance UNICEF needs.

124. Regarding the statement on the demands placed on staff members, the secretariat appreciated that the delegation considered that the secretariat did not exaggerate the need for reports and that as many requests as possible should be consolidated or combined.

125. The delegation requested clarification as to whether the sponsor of a draft proposal has a specific time limit to introduce the proposal in the drafting session. Members were urged to utilize some criteria for draft recommendations that would aim at keeping preambular paragraphs concise, and would avoid duplication of previous decisions or country-specific decisions. As stated in decision 1993/2, "the Executive Board should limit as much as possible the enactment of resolutions or decisions to matters directly related to governance and policies of UNICEF".

126. Another delegation agreed that the Board should focus itself more and take into account possible restructuring. This delegation also stated that when a draft proposal is presented, it should reflect the majority views of the Board.

127. Another delegation agreed with the views expressed by other delegations on focusing the agenda and actions taken by the Board therein, and further noted that while there are rules of procedure for the Board, there are no rules of procedure for drafting sessions, which, in fact, had become quite large. The speaker noted that this problem affects other United Nations organs; it is a matter he will take up with the authorities in his capital, with a view to considering the subject in the Economic and Social Council discussions on restructuring.

128. The same delegation agreed that draft proposals introduced should not be single-country proposals, and that they should reflect the views of the of the majority of the Executive Board. It was also suggested that future rules of procedure for drafting sessions should rule out substantive recommendations on items that are not on the agenda.

129. Concerning the procedures for drafting sessions, the Chairman of the Board responded that there was room for improvement in the methods for drafting sessions, but that when the chairmen of the drafting sessions had attempted to move to informal consultations, Board members themselves had prevented this from taking place. The Chairman agreed that issues on the agenda should be limited, and that draft proposals should not be brought forward if they did not have an impact in terms of changing policy or providing legislation that would assist in the work of the organization. He also noted that the list of documents gives the secretariat plenty of advance warning as to the issues the Board would like to discuss at the 1994 regular session.

130. In the context of restructuring, one delegation stated that there was a need to avoid unnecessary rhetoric in draft proposals, and that they should be shorter, approximately three paragraphs long. They should include precedents in terms of relevant past decisions, etc.; they should contain justification of action demanded by operative paragraphs; and they should note the actions required for UNICEF. The Executive Board should become a management Board, authorizing UNICEF to carry out its work. Concerning references to past decisions, these should focus on the status of implementation, and should contain approximately three paragraphs: one that refers to the previous decision; one that describes whether the actions specified in the previous decision have been taken or not; and one that addresses the status of implementation and describes future actions. On the use of informal consultations, this delegation found the idea to be good, but noted that many delegations had only one person.

131. The Chairman stated that the secretariat would amend the list of documents requested for future Board sessions.

132. One delegation suggested that the secretariat prepare a compendium of all country programmes, showing the overall picture of field operations in one document, one page per country. This compendium would include basic national data; information on the scale of the UNICEF office, including the budget and personnel; a short narrative describing major activities and programmes; and, if possible, the

goals achieved as well as future goals. The delegation stated that this document would assist the Board in their review of individual programme recommendations each year.

133. The secretariat responded that the information requested could be found in the overview presented in the annual Executive Director's report, which draws on individual country reports. UNICEF intentions are set out in the various country programme documents presented to and approved by the Executive Board. However, not all country programmes have the same cycles, nor are all programmes presented to the Board in the same year, a possibility which would involve 120 to 130 presentations in a single year. In the past, the organization published annually "Statistics on children in UNICEF-assisted countries". These statistics are still prepared and kept on computer records. At the present session, Board members expressed a desire for more information on progress. A planned document, "Progress of nations", would deal with key areas of concern on a country-by-country basis. The secretariat would be happy to discuss possible improvements in the presentation of country programmes on a bilateral basis.

134. Another delegation expressed interest in the proposal for a compendium, but pointed out that such an endeavour would require a good deal of work for the organization unless there was a highly advanced computerized reporting system. Informal discussions on the subject would be welcome.

135. Another delegation supported the proposal for a compendium of information on country programmes, emphasizing the need to gather the necessary information about UNICEF-assisted countries. The speaker invited the secretariat to visit his country and expressed gratitude in particular for assistance received from the UNICEF area representative-designate for the Central Asian republics and Kazakhstan. The delegation also stated support for all of the decisions being adopted at the present session and noted his Government's readiness to actively participate in their implementation.

136. The Chairman turned again to decision 1992/2 taken at the 1993 winter organizational session. The Board had agreed that informal discussions on the question of future work and procedures, particularly in relation to the country programme process, would continue, leading to formal consideration at the 1993 regular session of the Executive Board. Views expressed at the 1993 winter organizational session were to be taken into account, along with General Assembly resolution 47/199 of 22 December 1992 and ongoing discussions in the General Assembly on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations system. Delegations would be aware that the country programmes at the present session were presented in a different fashion. The Chairman queried what delegations thought about the experience, in particular, whether the approach was considered constructive and effective and whether the informal sessions were useful.

137. One delegation responded that, without qualifying the discussions and debates at the present session, his delegation had not pursued the question of the treatment of country programmes, since they hoped that the restructuring process would lead to a solution. His delegation would like to rest the matter for the time being.

Adoption of draft recommendations

138. At its tenth meeting, on 7 May, the Executive Board endorsed the recommendations of the Programme Committee contained in the statement of the Chairman of the Committee (E/ICEF/1993/P/L.34).

139. At its eleventh meeting, on the same date, the Executive Board endorsed the recommendations of the Committee on Administration and Finance contained in the statement of Chairman of the Committee (E/ICEF/1993/AB/L.14).

IV. DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AT ITS 1993 REGULAR SESSION

1993/1. UNICEF Maurice Pate Award*

On the recommendation of the Executive Director,

The Executive Board

1. Decides to present the UNICEF Maurice Pate Award, established at its 1966 session to honour significant contributions by an institution in a developing country in advancing the well-being of children, and extended in 1988 also to include individuals, to the people and the State of Ceará, Brazil;

2. Approves an allocation of $25,000 from general resources for that purpose.

1993/2. Future work and procedures of the Executive Board*

On the recommendation of the Chairman of the Executive Board,

The Executive Board,

Recalling its decisions 1987/1, 1987/2, 1989/1, 1989/2, 1989/3, 1990/1, 1992/5, 1992/7 and 1992/8 regarding rationalizing and streamlining the work of the Executive Board,

Noting decision 1992/8 regarding implementation of decision 1992/5 and the points made in the preamble to the former,

Decides to improve further its procedures and to rationalize the utilization of time of the regular Board sessions, as follows:

1. Documentation

(a) In order to rationalize and reduce the volume of documentation, the Executive Director should review the existing consolidated list of documents requested for future Board meetings and propose to the Executive Board before the end of the regular session how further to rationalize and to cut down this list;

(b) In creating any new documentation, the Executive Director should take into account the need to prepare shorter and more focused documentation, to concentrate all reporting on issues where action by the Board is required or where there are difficulties that need the Board's attention, and to include concrete recommendations for the consideration of the Board;

(c) The Executive Director should integrate information requests arising from Executive Board decisions into the annual Executive Director's report, wherever feasible;

(d) If regular reporting is needed, this should be done on a biennial or triennial basis to the extent possible;

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* Decisions 1993/1 and 1993/2 were approved previously at the winter organizational session of the Executive Board held at United Nations Headquarters on 9 and 10 February 1993 (E/ICEF/1993/13).

(e) In accordance with paragraph 1 (a) of decision 1992/5, documents should be distributed officially, and in all working languages, in good time before the opening of a regular session in order to be considered at that session;

(f) The Executive Director should undertake a technical and financial analysis of the electronic transfer of Executive Board documentation, in consultation with the United Nations Documents Control, and bearing in mind comments made by delegates at the 1993 winter organizational session, and report back to the Executive Board as soon as this review has been completed and, in any event, not later than the 1994 winter organizational session.

2. Agenda

(a) Normally, a limited number of major policy issues or themes, as appropriate, for policy decision should be selected by the Executive Board for in-depth consideration at its regular session, thus permitting more focused discussion;

(b) A table should be provided for each regular session of the Executive Board indicating the subjects (including major policy issues or themes) included in the agenda of the previous year, the present year and the two subsequent years, with a view to eliminating consideration of those subjects that are no longer relevant and to streamlining further the agenda of the Executive Board. Subjects should be grouped into related fields so as to achieve a logical structure.

3. Resolutions

The Executive Board should limit as much as possible the enactment of resolutions or decisions to matters directly related to the governance and policies of UNICEF.

4. Consideration of country programme recommendations

The Executive Board recognized the wish of several members to have a careful examination of individual country programme recommendations. The Executive Board agreed that informal discussions on this question would continue, leading to formal consideration at the 1993 regular session, taking into account:

(a) Views expressed at the 1993 winter organizational session;

(b) General Assembly resolution 47/199 of 22 December 1992;

(c) The outcome of the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields being undertaken in the General Assembly.

1993/3. Strengthening national capacities

The Executive Board,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 47/199 of 22 December 1993,

Bearing in mind its decision 1992/23 on strengthening national capacities,

Noting the recent publication of the evaluation of UNICEF summarized in E/ICEF/1993/CRP.7,

Recalling its decision 1991/11 on the role of UNICEF in support of the establishment of sustainable national health care systems, Convinced that it is essential to support institutional development and other types of capacity-building, particularly through the modality of national execution, in accordance with national priorities and long-term plans under the responsibility of the Government concerned, in order to achieve UNICEF-assisted national development objectives,

Requests the Executive Director:

(a) To include in future country programmes plans for UNICEF support for national plans for enhanced institutional development and other capacity-building measures;

(b) To support countries in the development of indicators for the monitoring of the institutional development plans;

(c) To include in his annual reports by region information on the experience gained.

1993/4. Ensuring the survival, protection and development of children in Africa

On the recommendation of the Programme Committee,

The Executive Board,

Recalling its decision 1992/21 (E/ICEF/1992/14),

Noting with appreciation the Executive Director's report (E/ICEF/1993/2 (Part I) and (Part II)) and the UNICEF policy paper on "Ensuring child survival, protection and development in Africa" (E/ICEF/1993/L.4),

Welcoming the holding by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) of the International Conference on Assistance to African Children (ICAAC) in Dakar, Senegal, from 25 to 27 November 1992,

Further noting the commitments of OAU/ICAAC as contained in "The Consensus of Dakar" (A/C.2/47/13) and the intermediate goals to be achieved in Africa by the end of 1995,

Further welcoming the recent agreement between the African Development Bank (AfDB) and UNICEF for close collaboration with African Governments on funding priority social development programmes,

Noting with appreciation the action taken by the international community, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), to alleviate the suffering of African children caught in emergency situations,

Concerned about the high rate of indebtedness to both bilateral and multilateral creditors of African countries which limits the possibility for increased allocations to be made for social development,

Most concerned about the recent reported increases in infant mortality rates in some African countries and also by the finding of the Subcommittee on Nutrition of the Administrative Committee on Coordination that the proportion of under-five children in Africa who are malnourished has not declined since 1975,

1. Reaffirms the commitment of UNICEF to Africa as the region of highest priority at present and its commitment to assist countries in Africa to fulfil the human development goals of the 1990s, as expressed at the World Summit for Children and in the Consensus of Dakar;

2. Reaffirms the commitment of UNICEF to the children of South Africa through support for the non-racial democratic organizations in accordance with appropriate resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly;

3. Calls upon all Governments in Africa to accelerate the implementation of the Declaration and Plan of Action of the World Summit for Children through, inter alia:

(a) Ratifying the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

(b) Preparing national programmes of action (NPAs) for children and implementing those programmes to achieve the intermediate goals by the end of 1995 in Africa;

(c) Supporting these activities through the mobilization of national and international resources, including restructuring of their national budgets to reach 20 per cent in favour of the priority social development activities affecting the lives of children and women by 1995;

(d) Encouraging national institutions such as national councils for children or other appropriate national forums (which should include children themselves) to raise the issue of children on the national agenda and seek innovative means for local fund-raising for programmes for children;

4. Further calls upon donor countries to increase and sustain the share of official development assistance (ODA) commitment to social priority sectors by 1995 in line with increasing commitments by African countries to sectors such as basic education, primary health care, low-cost water and sanitation systems, responsible parenthood and family planning, and nutrition programmes, bearing in mind the level of 20 per cent of total ODA for these sectors, recommended in the Human Development Report 1992 of the United Nations Development Programme and, in particular, calls upon the donor countries to direct material and moral support to the implementation of NPAs in Africa;

5. Urges all other agencies of the United Nations system and NGOs to support, within their spheres of competence, the efforts of countries in Africa to achieve the goals of the World Summit for Children and the NPAs in Africa;

6. Calls upon the Governments in Africa to fully and expressly take into account the NPAs for children in the process of national development planning and also in the process of macroeconomic structural adjustment programmes through, inter alia, including consideration of NPAs in the consultative group and round-table processes and in discussions with bilateral and multilateral organizations, including international financial institutions;

7. Commends UNICEF for its commitment to local and national capacity-building as a country programme strategy for sustainable development, and urges that this strategy be understood by UNICEF to mean not only the allocation of resources for the training of and support to recipient country nationals in various aspects of UNICEF country programmes, but also the specific involvement of recipient country nationals in the development, management and implementation of UNICEF policies, strategies and programmes within UNICEF itself;

8. Further urges donor countries and international financial institutions to consider all possible measures to reduce the official debt burden of African countries including debt cancellation and debt conversions, and further calls upon UNICEF to advocate at the highest possible levels for the reduction of African bilateral and multilateral debt;

9. Notes with appreciation the proposal made by the Executive Director in his opening statement of the urgent need for the next meeting of the Group of Seven industrialized countries to consider the adoption of further debt relief measures for Africa;

10. Further requests UNICEF to collaborate closely with OAU, and also with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and AfBD, in the implementation of the Consensus of Dakar, ensuring that the focus of UNICEF actions is at the country level;

11. Requests the Executive Director to report on progress with regard to the current decision and prior decisions on this subject to the 1994 Executive Board.

1993/5. UNICEF evaluation process

On the recommendation of the Programme Committee,

The Executive Board,

Pursuant to its decision 1992/24, which called for a three- or four-year thematic rolling evaluation plan to be established,

Bearing in mind the statement in decision 1992/24 that special attention should be paid to strengthening both subnational and national capacities to assess and plan programme activities, based on evaluation results,

Recalling operative paragraph 32 of General Assembly resolution 47/199 of 22 December 1992, which states "budgeting and related rules, procedures, processes and formats should be redefined to become, within the context of the sustainability of United Nations system supported programmes and their components and projects, output-, impact- or performance-oriented rather than input- or supply-oriented, and that, accordingly, evaluation and monitoring systems should be reoriented, while also strengthening the use of evaluation and monitoring findings, thereby creating a feedback system",

Welcoming the report of the Executive Director contained in document E/ICEF/1993/2 (Part II) which states, inter alia, that a review of past evaluations and their use and a summary of the evaluation plan and structure for all of the programme areas assisted in the future will be included in all country programmes submitted to the Executive Board,

Intending, amongst other purposes, that the following activities will be to strengthen over time UNICEF and cooperating partners' efforts to improve the capacities of national institutions to carry out evaluations, to identify comparative strengths and advantages and to make adjustments in planning and procedures,

1. Requests the Executive Director:

(a) To ensure that country programme evaluations become an integral part of the country programming exercise, with the view to providing better assessments of the performance of the Fund;

(b) To include in his report on evaluation presented to the Board every second year, and starting in 1994, a summary of the results of UNICEF programme and project evaluations. The report should set out a synthesis of evaluations of UNICEF programmes and projects, by geographic region, concentrating on findings and lessons learned. It should measure or describe qualitatively the degree to which outcomes have achieved the objectives of the programmes or projects as a whole. In the future, it should address achievements in developing countries under the three main programming strategies of service delivery, capacity-building and empowerment;

(c) To refine the UNICEF evaluation information system as part of the process of reshaping the overall information system for programme planning and management, which is currently under development, and report on its status to the 1994 Executive Board as part of the review of evaluations;

(d) To continue to collaborate closely with the members of the Joint Consultative Group on Policy to work towards the adoption by the United Nations system operational agencies of similar evaluation summary reporting systems and formats, especially focusing on harmonizing of evaluation procedures;

2. Invites Governments and the UNICEF Executive Director to maintain clear lines of UNICEF accountability for its country programme and evaluation processes and expenditures while strengthening inter-agency collaboration in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/199.

1993/6. The evaluation of UNICEF initiated by the Governments of Australia, Canada, Denmark and Switzerland

On the recommendation of the Programme Committee,

The Executive Board,

Noting the recent publication of the evaluation of UNICEF summarized in E/ICEF/1993/CRP.7,

Taking note of the comments by the Executive Director on the evaluation in E/ICEF/1993/CRP.8 and his response to opening statements by Executive Board members (E/ICEF/1993/CRP.17), and the views expressed by delegations both in the general debate and in the Programme Committee,

Noting further the efforts UNICEF has already made to benefit from issues raised within the evaluation,

Expressing appreciation to the Executive Director of UNICEF, as well as the authorities of Bangladesh, Bolivia, Indonesia, Mali, Mozambique and Nicaragua, who participated in case studies, for their extensive cooperation in and facilitation of the evaluation,

1. Invites Governments, UNICEF and other partners at the field level to present their views on the issues covered in the evaluation to ascertain how these can benefit their work;

2. Requests the Executive Director to analyse the responses received and report back to the 1994 session of the Executive Board on the experience gained and suggestions for further use to which elements of the evaluation might be put;

3. Invites interested parties to establish in New York, with the assistance of the UNICEF secretariat, an open-ended working group to identify issues in the evaluation that merit future consideration and to report back to the Executive Board at its 1994 session with proposals for dealing with those issues.

1993/7. UNICEF emergency operations

On the recommendation of the Programme Committee,

The Executive Board,

Having reviewed the report on "UNICEF emergency operations" (E/ICEF/1993/11),

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 on strengthening the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations and document ST/SGB/251 of 22 July 1992 on the establishment and operation of the Central Emergency Revolving Fund (CERF), Recognizing the unprecedented demands placed on the United Nations system by the increasingly large number of emergencies of varying nature, magnitude and complexity, and aware that peace-keeping, peacemaking and humanitarian assistance are closely interrelated in complex emergencies, especially given the implications of dangerous environments on the effectiveness of humanitarian assistance and the safety of relief personnel,

Concerned about the questions of the safety and security of UNICEF and other United Nations staff deployed in emergency situations and the grave risks to which they are increasingly exposed,

Taking into account General Assembly resolutions 46/182 of 19 December 1991 and 47/168 of 22 December 1992 wherein member States have indicated the need for more effective coordination in the management of United Nations humanitarian assistance activities,

Mindful of the primary role that the United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA) is playing in coordinating the United Nations response to emergencies,

Recognizing that greater complimentarity between emergency support and long-term action is required in order to optimize the use of resources available,

1. Requests UNICEF, in accordance with its mandate and the principles that govern its policy, to continue responding to the needs of children in emergency situations, concentrating efforts on non-food assistance, while maintaining and where possible increasing its commitment to longer-term development;

2. Encourages UNICEF to provide its support to emergency programmes for children and women with built-in development dimensions, with a view to increasing the sustainability of related efforts, giving due regard to empowerment and capacity-building in order to strengthen the ability of families, communities and countries to deal with these situations;

3. Urges that UNICEF country programmes, especially in emergency-prone countries, give increased attention to disaster prevention, preparedness and vulnerability analysis, and that they also address rehabilitation situations, linking them to sustainable development programmes;

4. Suggests that UNICEF increase evaluation of its emergency programmes, as well as participation in the United Nations system-wide evaluations of these activities, so that the experience gained can be utilized in future emergency assistance programmes;

5. Confirms that emergency support provided by UNICEF to any given country should be financed primarily from supplementary funds and that, in view of the complimentarity of the Emergency Programme Fund (EPF) and CERF, funding from EPF should be used only to provide a rapid response to emergencies which are not covered by DHA and CERF;

6. Calls upon UNICEF to continue to undertake its primary responsibilities to assist children and women in emergencies under the overall coordination of DHA and in close cooperation with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee on emergencies, other international agencies and non-governmental organizations;

7. Stresses the need for UNICEF, in accordance with international law, to study additional measures to protect UNICEF staff, and in this regard, calls on UNICEF to work closely with DHA and the United Nations Security Coordinator, especially in the establishment of adequate communications systems;

8. Requests the Executive Director to continue making use of CERF according to current practices, in accordance with terms and conditions outlined in document ST/SGB/251 dated 22 July 1992, and to collaborate with DHA and other United Nations agencies providing humanitarian assistance in developing improvements and refinements to CERF to make it more accessible to the United Nations development system;

9. Encourages UNICEF to take further steps to improve its capacity to respond, including a review of ways to adapt its operational and financial rules and regulations, procedures and guidelines in order to respond in an urgent manner;

10. Recommends a level of $14 million for EPF for the biennium 1994-1995;

11. Decides to review, if necessary before the end of 1993, the EPF funding level for 1994-1995, after the deliberations on the coordination of humanitarian assistance of the United Nations at the 1993 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council and/or at the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly;

12. Requests UNICEF to report to the Executive Board in 1994 on the measures it has taken to improve its emergency response capacity as well as the utilization of EPF.

1993/8. UNICEF programmes for the urban poor

On the recommendation of the Programme Committee,

The Executive Board,

Taking note of the report "UNICEF programmes for the urban poor" (E/ICEF/1993/L.9),

Recognizing the magnitude and urgency of the problems of poor urban children and the positive experiences of the urban basic services (UBS) strategy in supporting target populations and in building upon the creative responses of the urban poor themselves for coping with the situation, while noting that its capabilities can be further enhanced so as to reach and to empower many more children, women, other marginal groups and whole communities,

Deeply concerned about the growing number of street children worldwide and the squalid conditions in which these boys and girls and adolescents are often forced to live, including exploitation of child labour, the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography,

Welcoming resolution 47/126 adopted by the General Assembly on the subject of street children in December 1992,

Noting that the UBS components of UNICEF-assisted programmes are a composite of activities as noted in paragraph 20 of document E/ICEF/1993/L.9,

1. Endorses a two-pronged approach to problems of the urban poor, consisting of an urban focus in all sectoral programmes and a revitalized UBS strategy, including the provision of social services and the promotion of employment. This approach comprises four main thrusts: achievement of national decade goals for children, along with a partnership for a balanced approach to rural as well as urban poverty reduction; action on primary environmental care; attention to children in especially difficult circumstances; and application of the concept of "urban development with a human face";

2. Notes that these four thrusts are in the spirit of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the World Summit for Children, the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade and the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

3. Encourages all countries to address the needs of poor urban children through their national programmes of action and the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as their follow-up to Agenda 21, along the lines described above;

4. Invites UNICEF to cooperate with Governments, United Nations bodies and organizations and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in order to ensure greater awareness and more effective action to solve the problem of street

children by, among other measures, supporting development projects that can have a positive impact on the situation of street children;

5. *Calls upon* all concerned partners, in consultation with national Governments, in order to assure the success of UNICEF-supported programmes for the urban poor, to consider and include the views of children and adolescents about the circumstances under which they live in decision-making and evaluation of the programmes designed to reach them;

6. *Urges* UNICEF to continue to support developing countries in their efforts to address the needs of poor urban children through country programme actions, including local capacity-building, situation analyses and updates, advocacy, data collection, monitoring and evaluation;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director to include this issue in his report to the Executive Board every two years in non-budget years.

1993/9. Proposals for UNICEF cooperation and programme reviews

On the recommendation of the Programme Committee,

The Executive Board

1. *Approves* the following recommendations of the Executive Director for programme cooperation as summarized in document E/ICEF/1993/P/L.2 and Add.1:

(a) $82,634,000 for general resources funding and $97,981,000 for supplementary funding for programme cooperation in Africa, as follows:

Country	Period	General resources	Supplementary funds	Document E/ICEF/1993/
		(In United States dollars)		
Benin	1994	949 000		P/L.26
Botswana	1993-1994	2 105 000		P/L.26
Burkina Faso	1993-1994	5 500 000	8 107 000	P/L.25
Burundi	1993-1997	7 150 000	13 850 000	P/L.4
Central African Republic	1993-1997	6 000 000	12 500 000	P/L.6
Côte d'Ivoire	1993-1996		1 243 000	P/L.27
Gabon	1993-1995	2 250 000	142 000	P/L.18
Guinea	1993-1995		725 000	P/L.27
Mali	1993-1997	20 625 000	22 129 000	P/L.7
Mauritania	1994-1998	5 000 000	7 253 000	P/L.8
Niger	1993-1994	2 695 000		P/L.26
Rwanda	1993-1997 a/	9 900 000	13 000 000	P/L.5
Zaire	1993-1995	20 460 000	9 743 000	P/L.25
Zimbabwe	1993-1996		9 289 000	P/L.27

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a/ The Rwanda country programme is approved for the five-year period 1993-1997 on the condition that it be subject to annual reviews to assess the extent to which regular programme activities are feasible and allocate available funds as necessary between regular and emergency interventions.

(b) $13,246,000 for general resources funding and $103,225,000 for supplementary funding for programme cooperation in the Americas and the Caribbean, as follows:

(In United States dollars)

Country	Period	General resources	Supplementary funds	Document E/ICEF/1993/
Bolivia	1993-1997	6 875 000	34 275 000	P/L.9 and Corr.1
Ecuador	1994-1998	5 000 000	16 450 000	P/L.10
Mexico	1993-1995		4 500 000	P/L.28
Paraguay	1993-1994	1 371 000		P/L.25
Subregional: PROANDES	1993-1997		48 000 000	P/L.28

(c) $121,540,000 for general resources funding and $107,491,000 for supplementary funding for programme cooperation in Asia, as follows:

(In United States dollars)

Country	Period	General resources	Supplementary funds	Document E/ICEF/1993/
Bangladesh	1993-1995	52 800 000	56 821 000	P/L.13
China	1994-1995	36 000 000	13 500 000	P/L.11
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	1994-1998	5 000 000		P/L.19
Malaysia	1994-1996	2 250 000		P/L.19
Maldives	1994	430 000		P/L.26
Philippines	1994-1998	22 500 000	37 170 000	P/L.12
Philippines	1993	1 060 000		P/L.26
Thailand	1993-1994	1 500 000		P/L.26

(d) $18,500,000 for general resources and $29,345,000 for supplementary funding for programme cooperation in Central and Eastern Europe and the new independent States, as follows:

(In United States dollars)

Country	Period	General resources	Supplementary funds	Document E/ICEF/1993/
Albania	1993-1995	3 000 000	6 000 000	P/L.21
Armenia	1993-1994	2 000 000	2 000 000	P/L.22
Azerbaijan	1993-1994	2 000 000	2 000 000	P/L.23
Kazakhstan	1993-1994	2 000 000	4 000 000	P/L.24
Kyrgyzstan	1993-1994	2 000 000	2 000 000	P/L.24
Romania	1993-1994		3 345 000	P/L.29
Tajikistan	1993-1994	2 000 000	4 000 000	P/L.24
Turkmenistan	1993-1994	2 000 000	2 000 000	P/L.24
Uzbekistan	1993-1994	2 000 000	4 000 000	P/L.24
Programme support and operations	1993-1994	1 500 000		P/L.24

(e) $35,000,000 for general resources and $33,125,000 for supplementary funding for programme cooperation in the Middle East and North Africa, as follows:

Country	*Period*	*General resources*	*Supplementary funds*	*Document E/ICEF/1993/*
		(In United States dollars)		
Djibouti	1994	250 000		P/L.25
Egypt	1994	4 450 000		P/L.26
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	1993-1994	6 000 000	2 500 000	P/L.14
Iraq	1993-1994	4 000 000	13 000 000	P/L.15
Jordan	1993-1997	5 000 000	5 000 000	P/L.16
Palestinian children and women in Jordan	1994-1997	800 000	625 000	P/L.20
Syrian Arab Republic	1994-1995	2 000 000		P/L.26
Yemen	1994-1998	12 500 000	12 000 000	P/L.17

2. *Approves* an amount of $179,198 to cover overexpenditure (E/ICEF/1993/P/L.32).

1993/10. *Additional resources for the Special Adjustment Facility for Latin America and the Caribbean*

On the recommendation of the Programme Committee,

The Executive Board,

Recognizing the valuable support provided by UNICEF through the Special Adjustment Facility for Latin America and the Caribbean (SAFLAC),

Recalling with appreciation the positive evaluation of SAFLAC presented to the 1992 Executive Board (E/ICEF/1992/L.15),

Recalling decision 1992/18 in which the Executive Board requested the Executive Director to present concrete recommendations for the renewal and expansion of SAFLAC,

Noting the Executive Director's proposal in this regard contained in the global funds programme recommendation (E/ICEF/1993/P/L.3),

Recognizing that considerable efforts for fund-raising, especially in the private sector, in Latin America and the Caribbean have been undertaken,

1. *Recommends* that a supplementary funding component be added to the current proposal for SAFLAC (E/ICEF/1993/P/L.3, draft resolution 4) in the amount of $7 million for the biennium 1994-1995;

2. *Encourages* donor countries and organizations to provide additional resources for supplementary funding components of country programmes as well as SAFLAC to support the efforts of Latin American and Caribbean countries.

1993/11. UNICEF involvement in family planning

On the recommendation of the Programme Committee,

The Executive Board,

Recalling its decision 1992/28 in which the Executive Director was requested to submit a policy paper on the involvement of UNICEF in family planning, taking into account the health of the child and the mother,

Taking note of the Executive Director's report (E/ICEF/1993/L.5) in response to the above request,

Recalling that the goals for children and development, including those dealing with UNICEF involvement in responsible planning of family size, should be implemented with appropriate adaptation to the specific situation and policies of each country and with respect for cultural, religious and social traditions,

1. Considers that UNICEF cooperation in family planning should be consistent with policies in, inter alia, the medium-term plan (E/ICEF/1992/3), safe motherhood (E/ICEF/1990/L.13), the report on collaborative programming activities of UNICEF and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)(E/ICEF/1992/L.13) and the Executive Director's report on family planning (E/ICEF/1993/L.5);

2. Urges the Executive Director to include support for family planning, when it is identified jointly by the Government and UNICEF as an appropriate area for UNICEF cooperation, in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), UNFPA and other partners, each according to its mandate;

3. Urges the Executive Director to undertake, as part of UNICEF support for maternal and child health and family planning, the promotion of sexual and reproductive health, with particular attention to the needs of young people, including education regarding responsible sexual behaviour;

4. Requests the Executive Director to institute a system of periodic monitoring of indicators of UNICEF collaboration with other partners such as those listed in paragraph 51 of document E/ICEF/1993/L.5;

5. Invites the governing bodies of WHO, UNFPA and other concerned United Nations agencies to encourage these agencies to collaborate fully with UNICEF child survival and development efforts as part of their support for family planning and related activities in developing countries;

6. Requests the Executive Director to include information on the implementation of this decision in his annual progress report to the Executive Board;

7. Requests the Executive Director to prepare and disseminate to UNICEF field offices operational guidelines for implementing this decision.

1993/12. Follow-up to the World Summit for Children

On the recommendation of the Programme Committee,

The Executive Board,

Taking note of the "Progress report on the follow-up to the World Summit for Children" (E/ICEF/1993/12),

Recalling General Assembly resolution 47/199 of 22 December 1992,

Taking note of the "Consensus of Dakar" adopted at the International Conference on Assistance to African Children held in November 1992 and sponsored by the Organization of African Unity; the regional plan of action endorsed by the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Conference on Children in South Asia in Colombo, Sri Lanka, in September 1992; the Pan-Arab Plan adopted at the meeting of the League of Arab States held in Tunis, Tunisia, in November 1992; and the outcome of the meetings of the ministers and other representatives of Latin American Governments in Mexico City in October 1992 and of the First Ladies of Latin America and the Caribbean States in Colombia in September 1992,

Taking note of the resolution on Child Care and Protection in the Islamic World adopted in April 1993 by the twenty-first Conference of Islamic Foreign Ministers,

1. Urges that the personal involvement of heads of State or Government in the commitments of the World Summit for Children be maintained and strengthened;

2. Encourages countries to examine their national programmes of action (NPAs) so as to identify feasible targets for achievement by mid-decade, develop annual action plans enabling NPA activities to be incorporated into the regular national budgetary process and develop plans and programmes to make national programmes operational at provincial, municipal and district levels;

3. Requests that collaboration with international and regional financial institutions be strengthened further to assure that NPAs are taken into account at relevant moments of the poverty reduction, lending and adjustment processes;

4. Invites UNICEF, donor countries, non-governmental organizations and other partners, in consultation with the host Government, to consider ways and means to strengthen the delivery of social services, capacity-building and empowerment in the implementation of NPAs and country programmes supported by UNICEF;

5. Requests the Executive Director to ensure that those follow-up activities of the World Summit for Children within the mandate of UNICEF be coordinated with the work of the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations, and that NPAs be integrated into action for sustainable development, also by taking them into account in the preparation, by interested Governments, of the country strategy note;

6. Invites donor countries and international and regional financial institutions in a position to do so to increase the share of official development assistance commitment to social priority sectors, and national Governments in a position to do so to increase the share of national budgetary allocations for the same sectors, so as to increase the proportion of resources devoted to basic education, primary health care, low-cost water supply and sanitation systems, responsible parenthood and family planning and nutrition programmes.

1993/13. Universal ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by 1995

On the recommendation of the Programme Committee,

The Executive Board,

Encouraged that the Convention on the Rights of the Child has been ratified by an unprecedented number of States in so short a time,

Recalling that the United Nations General Assembly has, on a number of occasions, including in paragraph 4 of resolution 47/112 of 16 December 1992, called "upon all States that have not done so to sign, ratify or accede to the Convention as a matter of priority",

Further recalling that the Declaration of the World Summit for Children calls on all States to ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child at the earliest opportunity,

Convinced that universal ratification and especially implementation of the Convention would make a major contribution to endeavours to ensure that the rights of all of the world's children are respected,

Noting with appreciation that 1995, the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, has been proposed as an appropriate target date for universal ratification of the Convention,

1. Calls upon all States which have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to begin immediately to examine the steps that are required to be taken to enable them to do so and calls upon all States which have ratified the Convention to take steps to implement it;

2. Requests the Executive Director to offer advice and assistance, as appropriate and within the UNICEF mandate, while taking into account the workings of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, to enable States to become a party to the Convention as soon as possible, as well as in the implementation of the Convention;

3. Endorses the year 1995 as a target date for every State in the world to have become a party to the Convention;

4. Requests the Executive Director to include this issue in his report to the Executive Board annually until the objective of universal ratification is met.

1993/14. Children, environment and sustainable development: the UNICEF response to Agenda 21

On the recommendation of the Programme Committee,

The Executive Board,

Noting recent developments on environment and development, especially the adoption of Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the establishment of the Commission on Sustainable Development,

Recalling earlier Executive Board decisions 1989/18, 1990/2 and 1992/31 relating to this issue,

Taking note of the report of the Executive Director on "Children, environment and sustainable development: UNICEF response to Agenda 21" (E/ICEF/1993/L.2),

1. Calls upon the Executive Director to develop and strengthen cooperation and collaboration, as appropriate, with the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development, the Joint Consultative Group on Policy and other organizations of the United Nations, as well as Governments and

intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and to take active steps within the UNICEF mandate:

(a) To incorporate the primary environmental care (PEC) perspective as an integral part of UNICEF-assisted programmes for meeting basic needs on a sustainable basis and for protection and optimal utilization of natural resources in and around the community, including through empowerment of families, especially children and women;

(b) To ensure that UNICEF field offices systematically intensify efforts to support national efforts to: (i) reach those, particularly the poorest, who are living in environmentally stressed and vulnerable conditions; (ii) give special attention to environmental education for increasing the awareness of children and women about better livelihood opportunities and environmental improvement; and (iii) cooperate with non-governmental organizations for inclusion of children's and women's concerns as essential components of social movements in support of the environment and of sustainable development;

(c) To incorporate suitable environmental indicators into UNICEF-supported programmes;

(d) To (i) assist Governments in ensuring that national programmes of action contain PEC elements; (ii) provide modest seed funds to UNICEF partners, especially non-governmental and community organizations, to initiate innovative PEC activities; (iii) encourage social mobilization through schools, non-formal education and communication channels and health centres, so that children and their parents become effective focal points for sensitization of communities to environmental issues; and (iv) support advocacy activities to incorporate children's and women's concerns into relevant policies and strategies at local, regional and national levels;

2. Recognizes the importance of the global fund resources for environment as part of the Programme Funds for the 1990s Goals during the 1994-1995 biennium in order to support planning, project preparations and specific actions so that sustainable development concerns are integrated into UNICEF country programmes;

3. Requests the Executive Director to transmit to the Commission on Sustainable Development the goals and strategies for children in the 1990s for its deliberations on the multi-year thematic programme of work at its first substantive session and in the monitoring of progress concerning the implementation of Agenda 21;

4. Calls upon donor countries, international financial institutions and all agencies of the United Nations system to increase funding support for child-related PEC activities, as recommended in Agenda 21.

1993/15. The role of UNICEF in protecting, promoting and supporting breast-feeding

On the recommendation of the Programme Committee,

The Executive Board,

Recalling Executive Board decision 1991/22, which recommended that the Innocenti Declaration be the basis for UNICEF policies and action in support of infant and young child feeding, and called upon manufacturers and distributors of breast-milk substitutes to end free and low-cost supplies of infant formula to maternity wards and hospitals by December 1992,

Noting with satisfaction the adoption of World Health Assembly resolution WHA 45.34 (14 May 1992), which urged member States to give full expression at the national level to the operational targets of the Innocenti Declaration and supported the transformation of all public and private health facilities providing maternity services so that they can become "baby friendly", Welcoming the leadership of the executive heads of UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO) in organizing the "Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative" as a strategic means for achieving the Innocenti Declaration targets,

Noting the pledge of the International Association of Infant Formula Manufacturers, on behalf of its 29 member companies, to end the distribution of free and low-cost supplies of infant formula in hospitals and maternities of developing countries wherever the Government has instituted regulatory or other official measures, as appropriate,

Noting with satisfaction the report of the "Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative: Information Update as of January 1993" (JCHP29/93.12/Add.1) to the UNICEF/WHO Joint Committee on Health Policy (JCHP) and the recommendations of JCHP to WHO and UNICEF to continue advocacy and collaboration on the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative,

1. Expresses its appreciation for the achievements made with respect to the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative and action taken - by Governments, WHO and UNICEF - to end the distribution of free or low-cost supplies of infant formula in developing countries by the end of December 1992;

2. Calls for full compliance by all manufacturers and distributors of breast-milk substitutes with government actions prohibiting the distribution of free or low-cost supplies of infant formula by June 1993;

3. Calls on Governments in industrialized countries to take action appropriate to their social and legislative framework and their overall development objectives to end the distribution of free or low-cost supplies of infant formula in industrialized countries by June 1994, to coincide with the date the Directive of the Commission of the European Community on infant formulae and follow-on formulae (91/321/EEC) comes into force;

4. Reiterates the importance of all Governments attaining all of the operational targets of the Innocenti Declaration on the protection, promotion and support of breast-feeding;

5. Requests the Executive Director to mobilize the technical and financial resources for strengthening support to member States in implementing the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative and the operational targets of the Innocenti Declaration, and report progress to the 1994 UNICEF Executive Board, as previously requested.

1993/16. UNICEF/WHO Joint Committee on Health Policy

On the recommendation of the Programme Committee,

The Executive Board,

1. Welcomes the report of the UNICEF/World Health Organization (WHO) Joint Committee on Health Policy (JCHP) meeting in Geneva on 1-3 February 1993,

2. Endorses the following recommendations contained in paragraphs 26, 34-35, 45, 50, 54, 79, 87, 94 and 97 and annex 4 of document E/ICEF/1993/L.11:

I. REVIEW OF WHO HEALTH POLICIES AND UNICEF DECISIONS

1. The Executive Boards of UNICEF and WHO should reinforce complementary action to strengthen primary health care (PHC) programmes, to intensify research, to support training, capacity-building, intersectoral cooperation and integrated approaches, to focus on those most in need, and to mobilize resources to augment national efforts in those areas. Every effort should be made to follow up the goals of the World Summit for Children, giving special attention also to human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immune deficiency syndrome in children.

2. It is important that the governing body of each organization should be made aware of resolutions and decisions adopted by the other, so that priorities can be established and action taken to fulfil broad policy goals.

3. Resource constraints should be acknowledged and priorities set accordingly, and optimum use should be made of available resources.

II. WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN

Follow-up action

4. The Committee welcomed and saw the need for intermediate goals in order to achieve the longer-term targets of the Summit. It noted, however, that individual regions and countries would have to set their own priorities and timetables within those parameters. Country priorities would be most accurately reflected in the national programmes of action, already completed or currently in the process of completion in some 140 countries. All countries that had not yet embarked on such programmes should be encouraged to do so, and to complete them as soon as possible.

5. The Committee endorsed intermediate goals [as contained in annex 4 reproduced below]. It noted the importance of investment in capacity-building within countries, together with the motivation and training that would permit the implementation of programmes on an integrated basis - particularly within the framework of PHC - and their monitoring.

Annex 4

WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN

Intermediate goals for 1995

1. Eliminate neonatal tetanus through both immunization and clean delivery.

2. Reduce measles deaths by 95 per cent and cases by 90 per cent, through high coverage with immunization and reaching those not yet reached.

3. Achieve poliomyelitis-free status in countries in the American, European and Western Pacific regions of WHO, as well as selected countries in other regions, comprising at least 60 per cent of the world population.

4. Achieve at least 80 per cent oral rehydration therapy use and continued feeding in selected countries and 80 per cent of the following in all countries: proper case management at home and health facility, or by a health provider; access to oral rehydration salts and case management; and improving mothers' knowledge.

5. End distribution of free or low-cost breast-milk substitutes in all maternity centres and hospitals in the developing countries by

the end of 1992, and in all countries by June 1994; 1/ and achieve "baby-friendly hospital" status by all hospitals in 1995 in accordance with the "baby-friendly" hospital initiative.

6. Achieve full implementation of universal salt iodization in most of the countries where iodine deficiency disorders (IDD) are a public health problem; where full salt iodization is not possible in areas where IDD are a severe public health problem, supplementation with oral or injected iodized oil will be recommended as a temporary measure.

7. Achieve a significant increase in dietary intake of vitamin A in children from six months to six years of age, through food and/or fortified products, where diets are deficient in vitamin A. Where clinical vitamin A deficiency is a public health problem, vitamin A supplementation for pre-school children every four to six months will be urged, as a time-bound short-term measure, until dietary intakes reach basal requirements.

8. Stop dracunculiasis (guinea worm disease) transmission in all affected villages.

Progress made

Maternal health and newborn care

6. Noting that, in general, sophisticated technology was not required for maternal health and newborn care, but that adequate training and basic support in the form of equipment were called for, JCHP recommends:

(a) Strengthening the collaboration between UNICEF and WHO, together with the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund, in order to accelerate research and development and to provide more effective support to national programmes;

(b) Updating and revising the joint UNICEF/WHO statement on maternal and newborn care in collaboration with other organizations of the United Nations system and professional groups;

(c) Fostering reliance on, and increased support to, WHO's established research and development processes for the identification and evaluation of technologies, the definition of procedures and the establishment of norms, drawing upon country experiences of UNICEF, national programmes and other organizations;

(d) Jointly initiating the upgrading of midwifery as the critical link between safe motherhood and newborn care and a factor in the elimination of neonatal tetanus.

7. Recognizing the importance of maternal health and newborn care, its links with other concerns, notably safe motherhood, and its impact on the elimination of neonatal tetanus, JCHP endorses the broad outline of the basic package for maternal and newborn care, taking into consideration suggestions and concerns expressed during the general discussion. It recommends that UNICEF and WHO should explore ways of improving delivery at an affordable cost, recognizing the considerable work already being done by UNICEF, WHO, the World Bank and other organizations active in the area.

1/ The conformity date for industrialized countries has been set to coincide with the entry into effect of the European Community directive on infant formula scheduled for June 1994.

Vaccine needs

8. JCHP endorses the action proposed to overcome constraints, namely:

(a) Support to countries that have the capacity to produce vaccines so that they become self-sufficient;

(b) Through the Vaccine Independence Initiative, procurement of vaccines on behalf of Governments with either convertible or local currencies;

(c) Continued negotiation with vaccine suppliers so that they maintain provision of vaccines at affordable prices;

(d) Approaches to the donor community so that it contributes greater resources for the procurement of vaccines for the expanded programme on immunization. This action should be given priority.

9. Stressing the importance of the Children's Vaccine Initiative and regretting that its progress has been somewhat slower than initially hoped, JCHP recommends that UNICEF and WHO should give greater attention to publicizing the programme and seeking increased external support for its efforts. Research on the development of new vaccines should also be stimulated.

Control of diarrhoeal diseases, including cholera, and acute respiratory infections

10. Noting with concern the large number of deaths still attributable to diarrhoeal diseases and acute respiratory diseases, JCHP recommends that the Executive Boards of UNICEF and WHO should urge Governments to mobilize financial, technical, political and communication resources to provide the technically available means for reducing that mortality.

11. JCHP commends the active cooperation between UNICEF and WHO and among WHO programmes in combating diarrhoeal diseases and acute respiratory infections and urges that it should continue.

12. JCHP recommends that UNICEF and WHO should make every effort to define with countries the mechanisms for achieving their national targets, and to ensure that resources will be made available and a greater effort undertaken to implement national programmes. UNICEF and WHO should continue to work closely at country level in the planning and evaluation of control activities, and to coordinate their technical and financial inputs. This collaboration should also be coordinated with bilateral agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

III. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE "BABY-FRIENDLY" HOSPITAL INITIATIVE

13. JCHP recommends that UNICEF and WHO should urge full compliance, by June 1993, with government action prohibiting distribution of free or low-cost supplies of infant formula, and that the target date of June 1994 should be set for ending distribution of free or low-cost supplies of infant formula in both developing and industrialized countries.

14. JCHP reiterates the importance of achieving the 1995 operational target of the Innocenti Declaration, namely that all maternity wards and hospitals would be "baby-friendly", in accordance with criteria based on the joint WHO/UNICEF statement on breast-feeding and the special role of maternity services. It further reiterates the importance of government action in achieving all targets of the Innocenti Declaration.

15. JCHP reaffirms the importance of UNICEF and WHO support for:

(a) Preparation of action strategies for protecting, promoting and supporting breast-feeding, including global monitoring and evaluation strategies;

(b) Analysis and survey of national situations and design of national goals and targets for action;

(c) Planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of national breast-feeding policies;

(d) Specialized training and/or services.

IV. PROGRESS REPORTS ON COLLABORATIVE ACTIVITIES

Healthy lifestyles for youth

16. Praising the work done, JCHP recommends that UNICEF and WHO continue to work together on the following actions:

(a) Elaboration and dissemination of knowledge to support global, regional and national investments in the health and capabilities of young people, as an essential contribution to the economic and social development of countries and communities;

(b) Design and adaptation of key interventions which contribute to the health and development of young people, including strategies for their implementation and methodologies for monitoring and evaluation, making use of the existing education system and involving Governments;

(c) Identification and coordination of technical and other resources which would strengthen and develop national-level activities with existing partners, including health and social welfare, education, and youth-serving NGOs;

(d) Mobilization of new partners, such as the media, the world of entertainment, industry (manufacturing, agricultural and the informal sectors), the criminal justice system and NGOs, in order to increase their contribution to improving the health and development of young people.

17. Noting that the area where UNICEF and WHO could make the greatest contribution over the next 10 years would be in changing attitudes, JCHP recommends that the two organizations should discuss further the best means of bringing about change. The aim should be to increase their effectiveness in the four areas listed above by modifying their ways of thinking and by involving other partners.

Health education

Hygiene education, with specific reference to community water supply and sanitation

18. Appreciating the progress already made jointly in promoting health education in schools, JCHP recommends that UNICEF and WHO should pursue action in that area, for example by:

(a) Cooperating with countries to implement comprehensive school health education, taking into account the needs expressed by education and health officials in countries and at the regional consultations on comprehensive school education;

(b) Identifying countries that have potential for implementing and strengthening comprehensive school health education with which they would collaborate, together with other international organizations;

(c) Identifying operational issues on which they might collaborate, on a meaningful scale, in order to develop or strengthen comprehensive school health education policies and to determine the means to plan and implement collaborative and complementary actions for building up capability in school health education at country level.

19. JCHP further recommends that UNICEF and WHO should intensify their efforts in health information, education and communication through all possible sources, and seek innovative approaches and partnerships with, among others, the

media; political, community and religious leaders; the entertainment industry; youth organizations and other NGOs; and existing health and information systems. It emphasizes the importance of well-integrated age-appropriate health education for young and school-age children, adolescents, parents and the community at large.

Malaria control

20. Welcoming the partnership between UNICEF and WHO in malaria control and endorsing the main points of the global strategy as set out in the background paper, JCHP recommends that the two organizations prepare detailed strategies based on their "comparative advantages".

V. DATE OF THE THIRTIETH SESSION

21. It was agreed that the thirtieth session of the UNICEF/WHO JCHP should take place in Geneva immediately after the ninety-fifth session of the WHO Executive Board in January 1995. Consultations would be held between the two secretariats on the possibility of holding a special session in January 1994.

1993/17. Financial medium-term plan, 1993-1996

On the recommendation of the Committee on Administration and Finance,

The Executive Board

Approves the medium-term plan (E/ICEF/1993/3) as an indicative framework of projections for 1993-1996 (summarized in table 3), including the preparation of up to $330 million in programme expenditures from general resources to be submitted to the 1994 Executive Board (shown in table 2, item 5). The amount is subject to the availability of resources and to the condition that estimates of income and expenditure made in this plan continue to be valid.

1993/18. Final financial statements of the World Summit for Children

On the recommendation of the Committee on Administration and Finance,

The Executive Board

Authorizes the Executive Director to close the two special accounts for the World Summit for Children (E/ICEF/1993/AB/L.13) by transferring the balances remaining to general resources as follows:

	$
Special account for World Summit for Children	84 907.59
Special account for Summit-related mobilization activities	37 626.06
Total transfer to general resources	122 533.65

1993/19. UNICEF financial reports

On the recommendation of the Committee on Administration and Finance,

The Executive Board

1. Approves the level of the reserve for procurement services at $2 million (E/ICEF/1993/AB/L.11);

2. Notes the following:

(a) The interim financial report and statements for the year ended 31 December 1992, the first year of the biennium 1992-1993 (E/ICEF/1993/AB/L.7);

(b) Report to the United Nations Board of Auditors and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) regarding specific measures taken to implement previous recommendations of the Board of Auditors (E/ICEF/1993/AB/L.3);

(c) Review of expenditures in excess of commitments and unspent commitments for completed projects financed by supplementary funds (E/ICEF/1993/AB/L.10);

(d) Financial report and audited financial statements of UNICEF for the for the biennium ended 31 December 1991 and the Report of the Board of Auditors (Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 5B (A/47/5/Add.2);

(e) Report of ACABQ on the 1991 financial report and audited financial statements and report of the Board of Auditors relating to UNICEF (A/47/500).

1993/20. Administrative and programme support budget: revised budget for the biennium 1992-1993 and budget for the biennium 1994-1995

On the recommendation of the Committee on Administration and Finance,

The Executive Board

Approves the following resolutions as contained in E/ICEF/1993/AB/L.1/Corr.1 and E/ICEF/1993/CRP.38:

Resolution 1

Administrative and programme support budget for the biennium 1992-1993 a/

The Executive Board

1. Notes a reduction in the approved budget of $4,000,000;

2. Resolves that the revised administrative and programme support budget for the biennium 1992-1993 is as follows:

		$
Category 1(a)	Staff costs: international	121 019 578
Category 1(b)	Staff costs: local	106 762 362
Category 2(a)	General operating costs: headquarters	77 735 643
Category 2(b)	General operating costs: field	71 128 031
Category 3	Packing and assembly costs	10 308 693
	Total expenditures	386 954 307

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a/ See table 1 of the appendix to annex II.

Resolution 2

Revised income related to the administrative and programme support budget for the biennium 1992-1993 b/

The Executive Board

Resolves that, for the biennium 1992-1993, the revised income related to the administrative and programme support budget is approved as follows:

		$
(a)	Recovery from packing and assembly activities	20 000 000
(b)	Contributions from assisted Governments towards local budget costs	1 850 000
(c)	All other income	13 150 000
	Total income	35 000 000

Resolution 3

Administrative and programme support budget for the biennium 1994-1995 c/

The Executive Board

Resolves:

(a) That the administrative and programme support budget for the biennium 1994-1995 is approved as follows:

		$
Category 1 (a)	Staff costs: international	141 159 114
Category 1 (b)	Staff costs: local	114 407 779
Category 2 (a)	General operating costs: headquarters	88 916 877
Category 2 (b)	General operating costs: field	75 806 007
Category 3	Packing and assembly costs	11 073 603
	Total expenditures	431 363 380

(b) That, for the biennium 1994-1995, a commitment of $431,363,380 for the budget is approved;

(c) That the Executive Director be requested to exercise maximum restraint in the implementation of the administrative and programme support budget while ensuring the integrity and effectiveness of programme delivery;

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b/ See annex X of E/ICEF/1993/AB/L.1/Corr.1.

c/ See table 1 of the appendix to annex II.

(d) That the Executive Director be authorized to administer in the most efficient and effective manner the provisions under each of categories 1 (a), 1 (b), 2 (a), 2 (b) and 3. The Executive Director may, without further authorization of the Committee on Administration and Finance, transfer, if necessary, into any one of categories 1 (a), 1 (b), 2 (a) and 2 (b), an amount not exceeding 5 per cent from these same categories. In addition to the 5 per cent transfer authority with regard to category 2 (b), the Executive Director may revise the recovery amount from supplementary-funded projects upward or downward in line with actual supplementary-funded programme expenditures for a given budget year. The amount in category 3 may also be revised upward or downward in line with the volume of the throughput and reported to the Executive Board. Transfers in excess of the 5 per cent mentioned above may be made with the prior concurrence of the Executive Board. In exceptional cases, this consultation may be made by mail poll.

Resolution 4

Income related to the administrative and programme support budget for the biennium 1994-1995 d/

The Executive Board

Resolves that, for the biennium 1994-1995, the income related to the administrative and programme support budget is approved as follows:

		$
(a)	Recovery from packing and assembly activities	16 000 000
(b)	Contributions from assisted Governments towards local budget costs	1 850 000
(c)	All other income	8 150 000
	Total income	26 000 000

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d/ See annex X of E/ICEF/1993/AB/L.1/Corr.1.

1993/21. Global funds programme recommendation: revised 1992-1993 and proposed 1994-1995 budgets

On the recommendation of the Committee on Administration and Finance,

The Executive Board

Approves the following resolutions as contained in E/ICEF/1993/CRP.39:

Resolution 1

General resources programme budget estimates for the biennium 1992-1993 a/

The Executive Board

Resolves:

(a) That the general resources programme budget estimates for the biennium 1992-1993 are revised as follows:

	Headquarters	Field	Total
	(In thousands of United States dollars)		
IFPPE	25 000	-	25 000
Regional funds	-	28 430	28 430
PF90s:			
Health	16 238	24 047	40 285
Nutrition	4 627	1 125	5 752
Water supply and sanitation	960	1 040	2 000
Education	4 031	12 622	16 653
Intersectoral	4 699	5 793	10 492
Total PF90s	30 555	44 627	75 182
Emergency Programme Fund	2 686	11 314	14 000
Total consolidated global funds	58 241	84 371	142 612

(b) That for the biennium 1992-1993, an amount of $142.6 million for the programme budgets is approved, giving first priority to activities at the country level and on the understanding that any unused funds will be reallocated to country programmes at the earliest opportunity;

(c) That the Executive Director be authorized to administer in the most efficient and effective manner the provision under each of the funds. The Executive Director may, without further authorization from the Executive Board, transfer, if necessary, into any one of the existing activities or establish new initiatives within each fund an amount not exceeding 10 per cent from each activity.

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a/ See table 1 of E/ICEF/1993/P/L.3.

Resolution 2

Supplementary-funded programme budget estimates for the biennium 1992-1993 a/

The Executive Board

Resolves:

(a) That the supplementary-funded programme recommendations for the biennium 1992-1993 are revised as follows:

	Headquarters	Field	Total
	(In thousands of United States dollars)		
IFPPE	-	-	-
Regional funds	-	8 904	8 904
PF90s:			
Health	11 468	119 202	130 670
Nutrition	924	7 775	8 699
Water supply and sanitation	-	5 000	5 000
Education	-	6 000	6 000
Intersectoral	1 981	20 065	22 046
Total PF90s	14 373	158 042	172 415
Emergency Programme Fund	-	-	-
Total consolidated global funds	14 373	166 946	181 319

(b) That for the biennium 1992-1993, a total recommendation of $181.3 million for supplementary funding is approved.

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a/ See table 1 of E/ICEF/1993/P/L.3.

Resolution 3

General resources programme budget estimates for the biennium 1994-1995 a/

The Executive Board

1. Resolves:

(a) That the general resources programme budget recommendations for the biennium 1994-1995 are approved as follows:

	Headquarters	Field	Total
	(In thousands of of United States dollars)		
IFPPE	21 000	-	21 000
Regional funds	-	35 389	35 389
PF90s:			
Health	19 512	21 488	41 000
Nutrition	4 155	2 545	6 700
Water supply and sanitation	1 873	627	2 500
Education	4 000	6 000	10 000
Intersectoral	6 030	3 970	10 000
Total PF90s	35 570	34 630	70 200
Emergency Programme Fund	2 089	11 911	14 000
Total consolidated global funds	58,659	81,930	140,589

(b) That for the biennium 1994-1995, an amount of $140.6 million for the programme budget is approved, giving first priority to activities at the country level and on the understanding that any unused funds will be reallocated to country programmes at the earliest opportunity;

(c) That the Executive Director be authorized to administer in the most efficient and effective manner the provisions under each of the funds. The Executive Director may, without further authorization from the Executive Board, transfer, if necessary, into any one of the existing activities or establish new initiatives within each fund an amount not exceeding 10 per cent from each activity;

2. Requests the Executive Director to include in his report on the use of global funds in 1994, criteria for the allocation of PF90s to headquarters, thereby complementing the criteria for the allocation of PF90s to the field as contained in E/ICEF/1993/CRP.25;

3. Further requests the Executive Director to ensure that future global funds submissions distinguish clearly between headquarters, regional and country level allocations;

4. Stresses the importance of careful monitoring and evaluation of global funds utilization, and calls on the Executive Director to ensure that information on the results and development impact of activities supported by global funds, including programme acceleration and innovation activities, are incorporated into the UNICEF annual reporting process and into his report on the use of global funds;

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a/ See table 1 of E/ICEF/1993/P/L.3.

5. Requests that the Executive Director examine the implications of preparing future budgets reflecting the transfer of programme preparation and evaluation activities from the global funds to the administrative and programme support budget.

Resolution 4

Supplementary-funded programme budget estimates for the biennium 1994-1995 a/

The Executive Board

Resolves:

(a) That the supplementary-funded programme recommendations for the biennium 1994-1995 are approved as follows:

	Headquarters	Field	Total
	(In thousands of United States dollars)		
IFPPE	-	-	-
Regional funds	-	13 000	13 000
PF90s:			
Health	14 923	101 407	116 330
Nutrition	925	4 075	5 000
Water supply and sanitation	-	5 000	5 000
Education	-	6 000	6 000
Intersectoral	1 381	17 319	18 700
Total PF90s	17 229	133 801	151 030
Emergency Programme Fund	-	-	-
Total consolidated global funds	17 229	146 801	164 030

(b) That for the biennium 1994-1995, a total recommendation of $164.0 million for supplementary funding is approved.

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a/ See table 1 of E/ICEF/1993/P/L.3.

Resolution 5

Supplementary-funded programme plan estimates for the biennium 1996-1997 a/

The Executive Board

Approves:

(a) That the following amounts be raised from supplementary funds for the biennium 1996-1997:

	Headquarters	Field	Total
	(In thousands of United States dollars)		
IFPPE	-	-	-
Regional funds	-	13 000	13 000
PF90s:			
Health	14 593	100 407	115 000
Nutrition	700	2 300	3 000
Water supply and sanitation	-	5 000	5 000
Education	-	6 000	6 000
Intersectoral	1 381	17 319	18 700
Total PF90s	16 674	131 026	147 700
Emergency Programme Fund	-	-	-
Total consolidated global funds	16 674	144 026	160 700

(b) That for the biennium 1996-1997, a total recommendation of $160.7 million for supplementary funding is approved.

1993/22. Headquarters office accommodation

On the recommendation of the Committee on Administration and Finance,

The Executive Board,

Taking into account the views expressed by the member States,

1. Requests the Executive Director to obtain from the United Nations Development Corporation (UNDC) New York City and from the City of New Rochelle by 30 June 1993, at the latest, firm offers which should include guaranteed space availability at a minimum of 40,000 square feet starting 1 August 1995, guaranteed financing arrangements, firm costed offers for full or condominimum ownership of land and building(s) or portions of building(s) and common validity dates for the following options:

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a/ See table 1 of E/ICEF/1993/P/L.3.

(a) UNDC/New York City: (UN Development District)
- (i) single location - (owned)
- (ii) twin locations - (both owned)
- (iii) twin locations - UNICEF House (owned) - other Manhattan (rented)

(b) New Rochelle single location - (owned)

(c) New Rochelle/UNDC twin locations - New Rochelle (owned) - Manhattan (rented)

2. Requests the Executive Director to analyse each of these final and firm offers with the input of an independent real estate consultant, taking into consideration: nominal costs; net present value; estimated residual value; the implications of sub-leasing excess office space; indirect costs, inter alia, extra travel and communications quantified to the extent possible; and non-financial factors such as implications for delegations and UNICEF staff and the working relations between UNICEF and the rest of the United Nations system;

3. Further requests the Executive Director to submit the final offers and his analysis and possible recommendations in a concise format with the full text of the lease purchase offers to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions by 31 July 1993;

4. Decides to convene a two-day special session of the Executive Board no later than 15 September 1993 to consider the relevant documentation and to take a decision which will enable the Executive Director to sign an agreement at the earliest possible date.

1993/23. Review of administrative and management structures at UNICEF headquarters

On the recommendation of the Committee on Administration and Finance,

The Executive Board,

Welcoming the proposal to carry out a review of administrative and management structures at UNICEF headquarters as presented in document E/ICEF/1993/AB/L.8,

1. Decides that an independent administrative and management review shall be carried out by external consultants, in close cooperation with the secretariat. The review should be finalized by the end of 1994 and the consultants' report should be presented to the Board;

2. Requests the Executive Director to take into account all comments made by the Executive Board in the revision of the outline of the management study;

3. Further decides that:

(a) The results of the ongoing discussion on the restructuring and revitalization of economic and social fields of the United Nations system be taken into account in the study;

(b) An emphasis be placed on accountability in terms of greater clarity in strategic choice and greater transparency in budgeting and reporting in the management study;

(c) The review concentrate on the efficiency of management and administrative structures and functions, support services and financial and technical procedures;

(d) The external consultants be recruited from both developing and developed countries;

4. Further requests the Executive Director to submit the revised outline of the management and administrative review, including the draft terms of reference and a budget, to the Board at its 1994 winter organizational session for approval before the study is executed.

1993/24. Greeting Card and related operations work plan and proposed budget for 1993

A. Greeting card and related operations (GCO) budgeted expenditures for the 1993 season

On the recommendation of the Committee on Administration and Finance,

The Executive Board

1. Approves for the fiscal year 1 May 1993 to 30 April 1994 budgeted expenditures of $69.2 million as detailed below and summarized in column II of annex VII (E/ICEF/1993/AB/L.6):

	(In millions of United States dollars)
Director's office	1.0
Product line and marketing	38.3
Private sector fund-raising	11.8
Operations and finance	14.0
UNICEF field offices	3.1
Subtotal a/	68.2
Central and Eastern European National Committees Development Programme	1.0
Total expenditures - consolidated b/	69.2

2. Approves the 288 posts as indicated in table 2 of document E/ICEF/1993/AB/L.6;

3. Authorizes the Executive Director:

(a) To incur expenditures as summarized in column II of annex VI and to increase the expenditures up to the level indicated in column III of annex VI should the apparent net proceeds increase before and during the season necessitate, and, accordingly, to reduce expenditures below the level indicated in column II to the extent necessary, should the net proceeds decrease;

(b) To transfer funds, when necessary, between the various budgets as detailed under (a) above;

(c) To spend an additional amount between Executive Board sessions, when necessary, owing to currency fluctuations, to ensure the continued operation of GCO.

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a/ For details, see tables 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11 of E/ICEF/1993/AB/L.6.

b/ For details, see table 1 of E/ICEF/1993/AB/L.6.

B. Budgeted income for the 1993 season

The Executive Board

Notes that for the fiscal year 1 May 1993 to 30 April 1994, GCO net proceeds are budgeted at $169.8 million as shown in column II of annex VII.

C. Policy issues

The Executive Board

1. Authorizes GCO to continue to support efforts by National Committees to raise funds from the private sector which are to be allocated to supplementary-funded projects as well as to general resources and, as such, reported through GCO;

2. Authorizes GCO to continue to support private sector fund-raising efforts in developing countries and countries in Eastern Europe and the new independent States, as appropriate, and approves the allocation of funds raised through such efforts to Board-approved supplementary-funded projects in the country in which the funds were raised as well as to general resources and, as such, reported through GCO.

1993/25. Greeting Card and related operations - financial reports

On the recommendation of the Committee on Administration and Finance,

The Executive Board

Notes the following:

(a) The GCO provisional report for period 1 May 1992 - 30 April 1993 (E/ICEF/1993/AB/L.4);

(b) The GCO financial report and accounts for the year ended 30 April 1992 (E/ICEF/1993/AB/L.5 and Corr.1).

Annex I

REPORT OF THE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE ON ITS MEETINGS HELD AT UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS FROM 28 APRIL TO 3 MAY AND ON 7 MAY 1993

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

1. The Programme Committee held 11 meetings to review proposals for United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) programme cooperation and to consider a number of policy issues. Dr. Roberto Mayorga-Cortés (Nicaragua) served as Chairman of the Committee and Mr. Sher Afgan Khan (Pakistan) served as Vice-Chairman. The Committee was assisted in its deliberations by observer delegations from countries, as well as observers from agencies and organizations of the United Nations system.

2. The provisional agenda of the Committee, as contained in annex I of document E/ICEF/1993/1/Rev.1 and Corr.1, was adopted.

3. Many delegations expressed their condolences to the Government and people of Sri Lanka on the death of their President. On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman also expressed his condolences to the Government and people of France on the death of their former Prime Minister.

4. During the course of the Committee's debates, several delegations commented on the fact that they had received only advance, English-language versions of many documents before the start of the session. One speaker also said the "advance copies" received in her capital sometimes differed markedly from the final versions distributed during the session, and that the French translations in particular were not of the quality expected from the United Nations. The secretariat explained that because of the volume of documentation produced for other meetings and a shortage of translators in the Office of Conference Services, there had been unavoidable delays in the processing of UNICEF documentation. In an effort to catch up on the backlog, translators had worked around the clock and documents had even been sent to other duty stations for processing. UNICEF appreciated those efforts and asked for the understanding of Board members in this difficult situation.

II. THE BAMAKO INITIATIVE

5. The Programme Committee had before it the interim progress report on the Bamako Initiative (E/ICEF/1993/L.6). Several delegations specifically commended UNICEF on its leadership in promoting the Initiative, saying it is an appropriate strategic option and a most effective means of developing primary health care (PHC). It was emphasized that community-focused health sector development should remain a central part of UNICEF support to the health sector. The Initiative was viewed as a capacity-building effort aimed at the district level and below, with community focus a fundamental element for long-term sustainability. One speaker stressed that empowerment and mobilization of resources at the local level were key components towards reaching the established goals. Community involvement was also important in the strengthening of health systems.

6. Several delegations said that the Bamako Initiative should be viewed within the broader context of health sector reform, especially at a time when the role of the public sector in health systems was undergoing profound changes. One delegation equated the continuing success of the Initiative to its ability to adapt to new forms of social organization being formed in sub-Saharan Africa. As there was no one appropriate model for revitalizing health systems, there had to be diversified approaches with different mixes of financing arrangements which each country could adapt to its own special circumstances.

7. The importance of donor coordination was stressed by several delegations from both donor and recipient countries, with one donor specifically stating that it sought to be a stronger partner in this regard. Another delegation stressed the

need for donors to increase substantially their support to the Initiative, as it was now at a critical stage of implementation.

8. In noting the success of the Initiative, one speaker asked whether other sectors, particularly education, should not adopt the same approach. There was one specific proposal to incorporate family planning and prevention of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) into the basic health package supported by the Initiative. Another speaker proposed the wider application of the principles of the Initiative to regions beyond Africa.

9. In looking at the constraints facing the Initiative, one delegation highlighted the opposition of private pharmacists who felt threatened by the influx of generic essential drugs. Along with another delegation, the same speaker also raised the question of the long-term sustainability of the Initiative given the reliance on donor inputs. Increased efforts should be made in monitoring the financial situation of the Initiative in each country. More precise information should be made available on the issues of equity and the role of Governments in promoting equity; the rational use of drugs and the specific relationship of UNICEF to the World Health Organization (WHO) Drug Action Programme; and quality assurance from both providers' and consumers' perspectives. One delegation also brought up the need to strengthen the referral, or district hospital, level, and the need for UNICEF to consider a simpler language in the publication "The Prescriber" to make it more readable for front-line health workers.

10. Another delegation commended UNICEF for the research programme it had established on the Bamako Initiative and urged other agencies to consider supporting it. The secretariat referred to the research programme as a key action for providing a much more systematic review of key issues, specifically equity, community participation, the situation of health workers, quality of care, drug management and sustainability, which would address many of the concerns raised.

III. UNICEF AND THE RESTRUCTURING AND REVITALIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS

11. The Committee had before it a report on UNICEF and the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields (E/ICEF/1993/L.8). The Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development addressed the Committee, outlining UNICEF cooperation with the rest of the United Nations system. He highlighted the major role of, and support provided by, UNICEF at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and its initiative and support for the country strategy note. In addition, a representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) made a statement outlining aspects of cooperation between UNHCR and UNICEF in emergencies, development and rehabilitation, as well as in protection and advocacy. The Deputy Executive Director, Programmes, introducing the report, commended UNHCR for the human focus of its work of UNHCR.

12. Speakers expressed general support for the activities outlined in the report. Delegations commended UNICEF participation and leadership to ensure that assistance at the field level met coherently the development needs of recipient Governments, and its active role in developing the country strategy note. It was stressed that donor Governments were becoming increasingly impatient for results in the United Nations reform process. Another delegation stated that the reform process was painfully slow, particularly with regard to coordination at the country level. One delegation pointed out that the support of its Government for the country strategy note was based on its focus on common goals, emphasizing, however, that goals at the country level must take precedence over global goals.

13. General Assembly resolution 47/199 of 22 December 1992 was described as an essential tool to enhance inter-agency coordination and collaboration at the field level. One delegation noted that further clarification and elaboration of the resolution would be needed as it was put into practice. Another delegation called for the implementation of the resolution as an integrated package, rather than selective implementation.

14. Several delegations emphasized and supported statements made in the general debate that had called attention to the need for the country strategy note to reflect national priorities. It also must provide a framework for a coherent and coordinated United Nations response and serve as a basis for the review of individual agency programmes by headquarters and governing bodies alike. Primarily, however, the recipient Government should have the responsibility for coordinating all types of external assistance. All activities undertaken, including preparation of country strategy notes, strengthening the resident coordinator system and establishing field-level committees, should, therefore, be pursued in close consultation with host Governments. It was noted by delegations from recipient countries that the voluntary nature of the exercise was important. The secretariat drew attention to the example of Bolivia, where the Government's country strategy focused on poverty reduction, the impact of adjustment, maternal and child health (MCH) and the teenage girl. The Government's leading role in this strategy was being given strong support from UNICEF and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

15. UNICEF was generally encouraged to make available its best and brightest staff to the pool of candidates for resident coordinator posts. The secretariat said this had been discussed within the Joint Consultative Group on Policy (JCGP) and that new modalities to exchange staff had been introduced. One delegation requested that UNICEF report to the Board at its 1994 session on progress in the strengthening of the resident coordinator system, including the extent of involvement and cross participation and the extent to which UNICEF field staff were involved in working as part of a team focusing on common goals. Another delegation noted that the resident coordinator should not be able to change the nature of each agency's programme unless such a programme was running counter to the country strategy. Further, there should be no possibility of transfer of funds between the different agencies' programmes, nor should the resident coordinator be invested with the authority to "intrude" into the country strategy.

16. Many delegations stressed the need for a more coherent governing structure for United Nations agencies and more efficient delivery of development services. Thus, further strengthening and clearer definition of functions and responsibilities for United Nations agencies were required. At the same time, delegations pointed out that it was imperative that any restructuring have the effect of preserving and enhancing the unique strengths of UNICEF and that such strengths not be lost. One speaker noted that UNICEF would retain its own accountability under such a system.

17. There was general agreement among delegations that UNICEF is an effective and field-oriented agency for international development, with strong comparative advantages in terms of operational effectiveness within the United Nations system. Among its key strengths are its decentralized nature; its fund-raising capability; and its ability to mobilize quickly and effectively to work with all nations and parties across ideological and other divisions, to maintain flexibility and a creative cutting edge and, above all, to maintain an international focus on children.

18. With regard to the division of responsibilities at the country level, one delegation noted that UNICEF should address itself to capacity-building at the field level. Another delegation stated that the separate identities of funds and programmes at the country level should be ensured and that the distinctive role of UNICEF as protector of children must be maintained. It was pointed out that if this role were to become subsumed under some larger identity, international support for UNICEF could well diminish. Several delegations stated that the creation of an additional bureaucratic layer at the field level must be avoided. One delegation cautioned against focusing too much on coordination mechanisms, as this would reduce the time for and focus on concrete activities of agencies in the field, each according to its mandate.

19. Regarding the issue of common training, the suggestions of UNICEF were described as responsible and forward-looking. One speaker noted the need for a common training approach to programme accountability and programme evaluation. National institutional expertise was particularly important for capacity-building and long-term sustainable development. Another delegation requested updated information on relevant inter-agency coordination mechanisms on the training issue.

The bilateral discussions with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) proposed by UNICEF on this issue were commended.

20. Some delegations pointed out that in the event that an annual Executive Board meeting with broad participation from around the world were no longer held, it would be necessary to find ways of ensuring that supporters of UNICEF, especially non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and National Committees for UNICEF, were able to participate. Another delegation drew attention to the need for such decision-making organs to practise the principle of universality. One speaker expressed concern that decisions might be taken that would politicize UNICEF.

21. Several delegations pointed out that some issues such as governance and finance were still under discussion in the General Assembly ad hoc working group on the revitalization and restructuring of the United Nations and that decisions and guidance on a new framework would have to wait for the next substantive meeting of the Economic and Social Council.

22. A number of speakers also referred to the evaluation of UNICEF undertaken by the Governments of Australia, Canada, Denmark and Switzerland (E/ICEF/1993/CRP.7) and the Executive Director's comments on it (E/ICEF/1993/CRP.8). Some speakers called for UNICEF to improve the welfare of its target groups by continuously adjusting its interventions and activities to the tasks at hand, using the evaluation's analyses and recommendations.

23. Many delegations highlighted the need to do more in the areas of empowerment and capacity-building and to devote more attention to management issues. A group of delegations expressed the view that capacity-building seemed so far to have been limited. Also, the focus of UNICEF on empowerment had been stronger in terms of advocacy and alliance-building than in terms of direct empowerment of women and children to address their own problems. It was recommended that UNICEF utilize its long experience in social service delivery as the basis for promoting capacity-building and empowerment of beneficiaries. The three strategies were by no means mutually exclusive, as shown by some examples of UNICEF-supported water supply and sanitation programmes. The same group of delegations encouraged UNICEF to pay equal attention to promoting full participation of women and children as well as to helping fulfil basic needs. One speaker noted that the evaluation risked oversimplification in categorizing strategic choices, and reminded the Committee that benefits produced in service delivery could spill over and produce results for capacity-building and empowerment.

24. Many delegations reiterated the delicate balance involved in being both a favoured and critical partner. One speaker pointed out that UNICEF was in fact already a critical partner. Another speaker noted that the credibility of UNICEF would depend on it being a critical partner that upholds the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Thus, in emergencies and conflict situations, UNICEF should seek to be an advocate appealing to the conscience of all those who deny children their rights. The same would apply regarding children in prison, working children and children in prostitution.

25. Other delegations suggested that the Executive Board should formulate guidelines for being a favoured versus a critical partner, since conditions differed among various countries. The value of adopting a critical partner role should be reconciled with the principle of responding to the needs, priorities and programme objectives of national Governments. A number of speakers pointed out that the evaluation of UNICEF had not included consultation with the recipient countries.

26. Delegations emphasized the need for UNICEF to make strategic and operational choices. While the enormous capabilities of UNICEF were to be much admired and it was tempting to try to respond to every need, making such choices would be critical to sustaining the work of UNICEF. In this context, it was observed that in preparing some of the country programme recommendations before the Committee this year, efforts had been made to explain the combination of strategic choices in the programmes. Emphasizing the need for thorough and qualitative analysis of country programmes, a number of delegations expressed their appreciation for the presentation of some of this year's country programme recommendations.

27. One speaker raised the issue of accountability, which was linked to transparency on financial management, stating that while the honesty of UNICEF was not in doubt, the reports could be substantially improved. More clarity also was requested regarding objectives, activities carried out, changes made, processes followed and evaluation, especially for supplementary-funded projects.

28. Delegations called for improved monitoring and evaluation within UNICEF. Given that the report to the Executive Board on evaluation activities was presented every two years, one delegation requested that the Executive Director's report contain a summary of results of projects and programmes and a synthesis, by region, of lessons learned. The evaluation paper prepared for the Board should address qualitative issues. UNICEF was urged to reinforce collaboration within JCGP on a common framework for evaluation. The joint efforts should address synthesis reporting and format issues.

29. It was stated that the evaluation had provided little evidence of effective coordination, and it was not clear when full harmonization with the rest of the United Nations system would take place. One delegation stressed the need to concentrate on outputs, more efficient use of resources, cross-fertilization between programmes on innovative approaches, mainstreaming of gender issues and greater accountability regarding the use of global funds. (See chap. IV, decisions 1993/5 and 1993/6 for the recommendations of the Committee as adopted by the Executive Board.)

IV. EMERGENCY OPERATIONS AND THE IMPLICATIONS FOR UNICEF OF THE UNITED NATIONS EMERGENCY STRATEGY AND RESTRUCTURING

30. In the discussion of the report on UNICEF emergency operations in 1992 (E/ICEF/1993/11), a number of delegations commended UNICEF for its ability to respond rapidly in emergency situations. Several speakers also paid tribute to UNICEF staff who had lost their lives in the service of children and humanity.

31. The representative of UNHCR pointed out how UNICEF, initially established as an emergency organization, had gradually shifted its focus to adopt development activities as its priority task and, more recently, had been involved with the protection of the rights of the child. UNHCR, conversely, was born out of the need to protect the rights of refugees but soon found itself having to respond to emergencies. The common issues in their respective areas of concern drew the agencies together on many fronts.

32. In the context of the competing and contradictory demands facing UNICEF, many delegations expressed concern at the marked increase in emergency expenditure in 1992. While recognizing and appreciating the significant increase in the number and complexity of emergencies and the obvious need to continue to respond to them, several delegations nevertheless felt this should not divert attention or resources from the organization's priority task of providing long-term development assistance. The response to "loud" emergencies, these delegations maintained, should not detract from or be undertaken at the expense of "silent" emergencies. Some delegations were of the view that emergency relief assistance should be funded primarily from supplementary funds, leaving general resources for long-term development programmes. Several delegations emphasized the need to strike a balance between "loud" and "silent" emergencies and the need for strategic choices by UNICEF.

33. The secretariat said that the situation with regard to the expansion of emergency programmes was not unique to UNICEF and that demands on UNICEF resources, both in terms of funds as well as human resources and management time, had grown significantly. In order to mobilize resources and streamline decision-making and management, UNICEF had established a senior management task force for complex emergencies which reviews recommendations on policy and operational issues.

34. A majority of delegations stressed the need for greater coordination with the United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA). In voicing their unequivocal and firm commitment to the strengthening of DHA, speakers commended UNICEF cooperation with DHA to date but stressed that there was room for improvement. They welcomed the constructive comments of UNICEF on improving and

refining the various DHA mechanisms, including the need to make the Central Emergency Revolving Fund (CERF) more user-friendly. Many delegations said that the Inter-Agency Standing Committee should be the main forum for inter-agency decision-making and urged that it be used more effectively. The secretariat pointed out the many ways in which UNICEF had continued to cooperate and collaborate in strengthening the important role of DHA, such as seconding staff at headquarters locations as well as at the field level, actively participating in inter-agency assessment missions, drafting consolidated appeals and making CERF operational.

35. Some delegations expressed support for the proposal to increase the level of funding of the Emergency Programme Fund (EPF) from $14 million to $30 million per biennium. Other delegations requested further information on its use, and one also requested that the functions, use and procedures of EPF be reported on at the next session of the Executive Board. Many speakers said they would reserve comment or judgement pending the outcome of the forthcoming Economic and Social Council deliberations on the further strengthening of the United Nations system-wide response to emergencies, as this would provide an opportunity to review the functioning of DHA as well as the use of CERF. Certain delegations, however, were opposed to the proposed increase for EPF. One speaker felt that UNICEF appeals drew high donor response and that CERF could be called upon when funds were needed urgently. Another speaker felt the proposed increase might not be conducive to United Nations system-wide coordination under DHA, according to General Assembly resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991. The secretariat clarified the complementarity between CERF and EPF in terms of objectives as well as coverage.

36. Many delegations wished to see UNICEF emphasize the link between emergency interventions and development-oriented activities. It was urged that development dimensions be built into all emergency and relief assistance in keeping with the concept of the continuum from emergency relief to development activities. In this connection, several delegations observed that in addition to the delivery of services, at which UNICEF excelled, greater attention was needed in the areas of national capacity-building, empowerment and disaster prevention and mitigation. Greater emphasis also was needed in the areas of evaluation and monitoring.

37. A few delegations remarked that although it was sometimes difficult to attract donor response to such non-food interventions as health care, water supply and sanitation and education, UNICEF should continue to concentrate its efforts on covering the more difficult field of non-food needs because of its experience and special skills in such sectors. One speaker asked how donor attention could be drawn to this issue.

38. Some delegations commended UNICEF for its efforts to strengthen its response capacity through such measures as strengthening staff training, staff deployment or the emergency staff roster and requested a further update on the subject for the next Board session.

39. Several delegations expressed concern at the serious risks and loss of lives facing UNICEF and other relief personnel in complex emergency situations and acknowledged the need for a comprehensive, system-wide security system, while encouraging individual agencies to take simultaneously the necessary measures to strengthen safety and security of their own staff. The secretariat listed several measures undertaken for ensuring safety and security of UNICEF staff, including the appointment of a security officer, staff training and extensive use of communications and protective equipment. (See chap. IV, decision 1993/7 for the recommendation of the Committee as adopted by the Executive Board.)

V. GLOBAL FUNDS PROGRAMME RECOMMENDATION: REVISED 1992-1993 AND PROPOSED 1994-1995 PROGRAMME BUDGETS

40. To consider the programme issues pertaining to global funds, the Committee had before it the report on the use of global funds (E/ICEF/1993/P/L.30) and the revised 1992-1993 and proposed 1994-1995 global funds programme recommendation (E/ICEF/1993/P/L.3 and Add.1). Delegations were reminded that the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) (E/ICEF/1993/AB/L.2) addressed some budgetary aspects of global funds and that

issues relating to posts and support costs would be discussed by the Committee on Administration and Finance (see chap. IV, decision 1993/21 for the recommendation of the Committee on Administration and Finance as adopted by the Executive Board).

41. Many delegations appreciated the new budget format in the global funds submission and the user-friendly structure of the documentation. A group of delegations noted that the management procedures for the funds seem to have improved. One delegation commended the secretariat's efforts to consolidate the various global funds into a single package with a single review and approval cycle.

42. Other delegations stated that the tables in the proposed global funds budget document, as well as the structures and modalities of the global funds, could be further improved, taking into account the recommendations of ACABQ. Questions were raised regarding the discrepancy between the figures in the global funds budget document and in the medium-term plan (E/ICEF/1993/3). The secretariat replied that the global funds budget figures were proposed for approval subject to the availability of funds and that the medium-term plan provided the actual authority for expenditure.

43. One delegation expressed concern that only a small proportion of global funds was explicitly for new and innovative approaches and said that this proportion should be increased, as opposed to the allocation for acceleration of programme implementation. Several speakers said that the document did not yet give clear criteria for the formulation and appraisal of activities to be supported by global funds, as had been requested in decision 1992/14 (E/ICEF/1992/14), and instead gave only the circumstances under which the funds would be used. The criteria described in the addendum referring to support in situations of unforeseen budgetary cutbacks in the social sector seemed questionable to one delegation, as it believed that such support mechanisms should be integrated into country programmes.

44. It was suggested by one delegation that in the absence of clear criteria for the use of the funds, a revised ceiling of the country programme could be a good alternative. Such changes in the country programmes could be approved more easily if it was decided in the process of United Nations reform that governing bodies would meet more frequently. The secretariat agreed that criteria for allocation from global funds could indeed be further improved. Regarding raising country ceilings as an alternative, if the general resources component of the Programme Funds for the 1990s Goals (PF90s) was, as suggested, apportioned between 140 countries with due consideration for the size of the country programmes, this would mean only a slight increase in the ceiling of each of the country programmes, which could not effectively serve the same purposes as PF90s.

45. All delegations reiterated that country programmes should remain the main vehicle for supporting UNICEF activities at the field level. Hence, many of the activities funded from the global funds should be integrated into the country programmes as soon as possible. Appreciation was shown for the UNICEF position that global funds complement country programmes and provide support of a short-term nature and are eventually integrated into country programmes.

46. Several delegations expressed some misgivings regarding the proportion of global funds in total programme costs and the proposed increase in general resources. The increased allocation to headquarters, especially in PF90s, was also disquieting to some delegations. One delegation expressed concern about an apparent trend and orientation away from the field and referred to the high number of headquarters positions, as well as the increase in the headquarters budget. The proposed increases were especially inappropriate as there was significant underutilization of PF90s in 1992 in many sectors. More clarification was requested by one delegation as to the criteria for allocation of PF90s, as the current criteria of bridging support for programme acceleration seemed too broad.

47. Responding to the various points raised, the secretariat agreed that criteria for the use of global funds would be elaborated further. It also explained that while EPF and PF90s were primarily for responding to countries' requests, the Interregional Fund for Programme Preparation, Promotion and Evaluation (IFPPE) was intended mainly for programmes managed at headquarters and had to be judged on its merit and relevance to the work of UNICEF. Examples included activities related to

evaluation, adjustment with a human face, Facts for Life, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, programme communication and support for NGO activities. The secretariat also reiterated that all posts at headquarters were necessary and reminded delegations that the advisory posts serve not only projects funded by global funds, but also those which were part of regular country programmes. One example was the case of the four advisory posts for water supply and sanitation at headquarters, which provided technical and policy guidance for the $84 million spent during the past year on water supply and sanitation activities, not just to the small amount allocated to this sector from global funds. The fixed costs of such advisory services, unlike programme activities in the field, could not be absorbed into country programmes. Further, concerning the underutilization of funds, the secretariat explained that it tried to be responsive to country requests and did not press for full utilization of funds. Underimplementation of global funds was not necessarily a bad thing, as this often allowed for higher levels of country programme implementation.

48. It was noted by a group of delegations that criteria for project posts and project activities needed to be clarified further. Moreover, one delegation wondered why the State of the World's Children report should not be funded from the regular budget, instead of IFPPE, as was now the case. Similarly, another delegation remarked that certain activities and related expenditures, such as evaluation and inter-agency coordination, would be more appropriately funded from the administrative and programme support budget. Some clarification was requested on the environment global fund. On the other hand, delegations agreed that such support for activities as improving the situation of children in especially difficult circumstances and combating the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)/AIDS should come from global funds. Regarding core posts versus project posts, the secretariat pointed out that it had meticulously followed the criteria approved by the Board in 1992 and that if the Board had reservations, it might need to review those criteria again.

49. A number of other speakers concurred with the secretariat on the concept of, and the need for, these funds, including the Special Adjustment Facility for Latin America and the Caribbean (SAFLAC) and the funds for women in development, children in especially difficult circumstances, eradication of dracunculiasis (guinea worm disease), nutrition and water supply and sanitation.

50. One donor country delegation recognized the valuable support the Mortality Reduction Reserve (MRR) had provided, under its various titles over the years, in meeting a broad range of health needs, such as the expanded programme on immunization (EPI) and universal child immunization (UCI). It was pointed out that refinement of the scope, priorities and implementation criteria and strategies would increase the effectiveness and reach of this fund. More emphasis was urged for health promotion, particularly among youth, as part of the activities funded by MRR. It was mentioned that UNICEF should play a greater role in communication on the issue of female genital mutilation. UNICEF was also urged to work closely with such agencies as WHO and ILO to develop child monitoring tools and methods for field use. While approving the fund for environment, this delegation stressed that pilot projects it funded should be in areas where UNICEF had comparative advantage and that criteria for use of this fund should include the proviso that the activity would, in time, be integrated into UNICEF regular programme activities. The secretariat clarified that the main objective of the environment fund was to provide assistance, advise and otherwise ensure that the environmental dimension was incorporated into all UNICEF-supported projects and programmes.

51. Various other delegations described how global and regional funds, including SAFLAC, had been used at the country level, such as the education for peace initiative in Lebanon and women's activities in Colombia and Cuba. One delegation from the new independent States noted that PF90s might also be used for unforeseen budgetary support in countries where needs have been identified but had not been met by donors. Another delegation said that PF90s could be used to meet unforeseen costs resulting from closure of programmes and projects, since it could not be assumed that all programmes or projects met with success.

52. Two delegations regretted that both country and regional allocations had been categorized as field allocations and suggested that the three categories - headquarters, regional and field - be kept separate to ensure greater clarity. It was further suggested that if this were the case, headquarters allocation would probably exceed field allocation. Some speakers noted that the use of various regional funds was still unclear and the regional office functions should be funded by the administrative and programme support budgets.

53. One delegation stated that field offices should be more involved in the preparation of global funds submissions and another asked to what extent field offices have access to regional and global funds. The secretariat responded that there was a well-established process, with internal guidelines and mechanisms, for field offices to submit proposals for global funds.

54. Another speaker recognized the need for flexibility and the key role played by every part of UNICEF, including headquarters, the regional offices and the field, and referred to the regional directors' statements on the use of regional funds in their regions. Information was requested on the need for a separate fund for "high-income countries", as these countries were already part of regions which had their own allocations. The secretariat replied that in such countries, UNICEF could not afford offices and that this mechanism was one way of providing some modest and focused support to such countries as the Gulf States and Trinidad and Tobago.

55. It was suggested that more emphasis be given to monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the utilization of particular global funds. One delegation requested more systematically produced, descriptive reports on global funds projects and activities and their development impact. A speaker supported the conclusion of ACABQ that there should be an independent study of UNICEF operations to determine whether they were carried out efficiently and cost-effectively, especially the utilization of global funds.

VI. UNICEF PROGRAMMES FOR THE URBAN POOR

56. The Committee had before it a report on UNICEF programmes for the urban poor (E/ICEF/1993/L.9), which was introduced by the Deputy Executive Director, Programmes. Delegations expressed appreciation of the document's clarity and of the pioneering work of UNICEF in the area of urban development. The urban basic services (UBS) programmes were seen as interesting examples of intersectoral and interdisciplinary programmes. It was emphasized that the urgent need for such programmes would continue for a long time. At the same time, the Committee was reminded that efforts to help rural children should continue.

57. Speakers referred to the speed at which cities were expanding in size, as well as some of the factors that cause rural-urban migration. Of particular concern to one delegation was what it considered to be the complete abandonment of the poor in peri-urban areas in terms of health, environment and legal rights, since such areas do not usually fall under city municipalities or specific government ministries. Ensuring access to health care services and essential information would, in some measure, offset what were described as the unacceptable living conditions of millions of urban and peri-urban women and children. A group of delegations remarked that some industrialized countries had the same problems as developing countries in this respect and drew attention to the fact that the urban situation in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union was alarming. Because the problems were vast and resources were limited, UNICEF was asked to balance carefully and target its interventions.

58. Most low-income urban households were headed by women and the gender perspective was thus imperative, it was stated. Attention should also be paid to preadolescent and adolescent youth. Child rights in the urban context, child prostitution, the sale of children and child pornography were areas requiring concrete action for prevention and rehabilitation by UNICEF and others. To this end, UNICEF was asked to collaborate closely with the Special Rapporteur appointed by the General Assembly on these issues. A number of delegations said the root causes of street children and child prostitution lay in poverty and the breakdown of

family structures. Because of the importance of the family, UNICEF was urged to take part in activities for the International Year of the Family (1994).

59. One delegation asked the secretariat to take specific steps to monitor and evaluate its programmes for the urban poor. Collection and analysis of data on the urban poor and their environment would be required to ensure appropriate policy decisions. UNICEF was asked to specify indicators to be used to monitor urban health activities and their related effects and impact, and to present the results of these measurements to the Executive Board on a regular basis, not only to inform members of the Board, but also to improve the information base for programmes for the urban poor.

60. Information and use of data were essential to the ability of UNICEF to act as an advocate for poor urban children and to inform teachers, parents and children themselves about creating "child-friendly" circumstances. Interaction with the media therefore required attention. A group of delegations mentioned some initiatives particularly relevant to improving the situation of urban children, such as the "baby-friendly" hospital initiative and the "Mayors as Defenders of Children" initiative.

61. One delegation urged UNICEF to pay more attention to regional differences, its own role in operation and maintenance and the issue of cost-recovery of urban programmes, especially in water supply and sanitation. The same delegation also suggested that UNICEF agree upon a strategy for cooperation with other partners. It was generally agreed that cooperation with NGOs and local municipalities was crucial in implementing UBS programmes. UNICEF also was asked by a group of delegations to specify more clearly the strategic mix of programme components which the evaluation of UNICEF had identified. These delegations also mentioned that the role of UNICEF as a critical partner would be relevant in this context.

62. One delegation remarked that the UBS programmes and various sectoral programmes have run parallel to each other. Information was requested on how this situation could be improved and the secretariat was reminded to avoid vertical and parallel structures by integrating different programme activities. Some delegations called for the full integration of UBS into country programmes. The secretariat responded that UBS programmes had always been an integral part of country programmes and were developed and implemented as such by Governments, municipalities, NGOs and communities, with UNICEF help. (See chap. IV, decision 1993/8 for the recommendation of the Committee as adopted by the Executive Board.)

VII. PROGRAMME COOPERATION

Programme cooperation in Africa and ensuring child survival, protection and development in Africa

63. The Committee had before it 14 proposals for UNICEF cooperation in Africa as summarized in document E/ICEF/1993/P/L.2 and Add.1, as well as a report on ensuring child survival, protection and development in Africa (E/ICEF/1993/L.4) and an interim progress report on the Bamako Initiative (E/ICEF/1993/L.6). Presentations were made by the Regional Director for West and Central Africa, the Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa and the UNICEF representative in Burundi. The Deputy Executive Director, Programmes, introduced the reports on ensuring child survival, protection and development in Africa and on the Bamako Initiative.

64. Delegations reaffirmed the commitment of UNICEF to Africa as the region of highest priority, as expressed in Executive Board decision 1991/13 (E/ICEF/1991/14). Speakers expressed appreciation for the fact that the level of UNICEF cooperation in Africa had increased steadily in recent years, reaching 38 per cent of total programme expenditure in 1992. Attention was drawn to the need to implement, in terms of financial commitments, the decision to give Africa high priority. A number of delegations proposed that UNICEF strengthen further its presence and capacity in Africa. Many speakers noted that the situation of children and women in Africa had not improved and indeed had even deteriorated in some cases. Concern was expressed over the increase in the infant mortality rate (IMR) in some African countries, such as Uganda and Zambia. Several speakers, however, noted encouraging developments in

the region that gave reason for optimism, such as democratization and more efficient use of resources through market-oriented economic systems.

65. Several delegations from many regions, including Africa, praised UNICEF for its generally rapid and efficient intervention in the "loud" emergencies, including drought and conflict, that continue to plague Africa. However, it was also stressed that the response to emergencies must not detract from the long-term development work of UNICEF within regular country programmes. Some speakers regretted that such "loud" emergencies would compete for scarce resources with the many ongoing "silent" emergencies in Africa.

66. Delegations commended the strong role of UNICEF in accelerating ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the follow-up process to the World Summit for Children. It was stated that, to date, 36 countries in Africa had ratified the Convention. Many countries in Africa had completed their national programmes of action (NPAs) for implementing the World Summit goals or were about to do so. Twenty-nine NPAs had been finalized, 15 were in draft form and 3 were under preparation, leaving only 4 countries to initiate the process. A group of delegations stressed the need to link the NPA with national development plans of African countries. Various speakers also emphasized that the International Conference on Assistance to the African Child (ICAAC), held in Dakar, Senegal, in December 1992, which had led to adoption of the "Consensus of Dakar", was an important breakthrough for mobilizing resources and strengthening the commitment for implementing the World Summit Plan of Action and promoting the objectives of the Convention.

67. Delegations from other regions joined a number of African delegations in recognizing that many African Governments had taken concrete steps to meet their obligations towards the goals of the World Summit for Children. Delegations of donor countries recognized the commitment made by African Governments, as recorded in the Consensus of Dakar, to restructure national budgets, earmarking at least 20 per cent for social development. Speakers also referred to the spirit of constructive partnership among donors and African countries at ICAAC and to the importance of implementing the "20/20 vision" - the allocation of at least 20 per cent of official development assistance (ODA) from donor countries and at least 20 per cent of national budgets in developing countries for human development needs. One speaker inquired about actions taken jointly by UNICEF, the Organization of African Unity and the African Development Bank in the follow-up to ICAAC. The secretariat explained that possibilities for mobilizing funds were being explored on a country-by-country basis.

68. African delegations expressed regret over present resource constraints and stressed the need for increased financial support from the international community to complement domestic efforts to achieve sustainable development. Speakers suggested various approaches to mobilize additional resources. Other speakers suggested that debt swaps and debt relief for priority human development could be negotiated more frequently than at present. New partnerships between public and private sectors were also called for. As national social sector budgets have shrunk, an increased role and responsibility was being given to the non-governmental sector. A number of delegations cautioned that the growth of the non-governmental sector would need to be regulated by the public sector to avoid distortions in service delivery systems and to ensure equity. Thus, public sector roles and responsibilities would need to be clearly defined.

69. One delegation stated that many UNICEF-assisted country programmes, especially those in West Africa, remained too vertical and focused more on UNICEF supply than on country demand. Several delegations emphasized the need for a new approach to programme cooperation to take into account present challenges in Africa. Structural improvement of the economy would be needed to achieve a qualitative and sustainable improvement in human welfare. Thus, interventions should be related to broader needs for national planning, adjustment and development and to the need for local integration and effective use of national resources. To ensure sustainability, UNICEF support should focus on country-specific mixes of various strategies, with particular attention to national capacity-building and empowerment of women and community groups. Specific portions of country budgets should be allocated for these two activities. The need to mobilize men was also emphasized, since men

needed to be involved in any strategy that aimed at improving the status of women. Coordination and cooperation with such partners as the World Bank, multilateral and bilateral donors and NGOs were strongly urged.

70. Many delegations expressed alarm at the scale and rapid spread of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in the region, which constitutes a serious obstacle to the reduction of IMR. Some delegations spoke of the plight of children orphaned as a result of AIDS and the need for interventions to address the situation.

71. With regard to country programmes before the Committee for approval, one delegation noted that since the recommendations did not always provide the reader with a clear description of the activities of other donors, there was potential for duplication of activities. UNICEF was strongly encouraged to expand its programmes in the education sector, especially those focusing on female education and literacy.

72. One delegation commended the Burundi country programme for its focus on the development of the young child, basic education and hygiene education. Another delegation noted that continued efforts would be needed to ensure sustainability, with a particular focus on national capacity-building. Given the critical need to address both HIV/AIDS and family planning in the country, one speaker, who had taken part in the field visit to Burundi, suggested that the strong field delivery channels of UNICEF be used for the distribution of condoms, recognizing that the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is the lead agency in the provision of contraceptives.

73. One donor delegation noted with concern the decrease in funds for vaccination programmes in the Central African Republic programme, while commending UNICEF for achievements in the Bamako Initiative in that country. Regarding the Mali programme, UNICEF was encouraged to continue supporting the Government goal of eradicating dracunculiasis. The innovative approach of UNICEF to improve traditional education in Mauritania also drew a favourable comment.

74. UNICEF was commended for its work with children in difficult circumstances in Zaire, for its response to the drought situation in Zimbabwe and, in both these countries, its ability to adapt programmes to match emergency priorities with available resources. The same delegation requested UNICEF to take steps to improve EPI and programmes for the control of diarrhoeal diseases (CDD) in the Côte d'Ivoire, in the light of recent studies on the impact of such programmes. UNICEF also was requested to ensure that basic child survival programmes had adequate resources before new initiatives were started in Burkina Faso.

75. A number of delegations expressed reservations about the Rwanda programme. Doubts were raised on the feasibility of implementation, given the emergency situation in that country. One delegation referred to internal constraints and conceptual weakness in the programme's formulation and proposed that the programme be approved for only one year at a time. Another delegation raised the issue of involvement of NGOs, as well as the harmonization of programme cycles with those of other United Nations agencies. A third speaker enquired about the role of civil groups. A fourth delegation, which was otherwise generally supportive of the Rwanda programme, recommended that UNICEF review the feasibility of implementing the entire programme as presented.

76. The secretariat responded that although Rwanda was indeed in crisis, with some 900,000 persons displaced, it was still possible to carry on programme activities outside the conflict zone. Programme elements could even contribute to continuity in an otherwise severely disrupted planning environment. In fact, in February 1993, the UNDP Governing Council had approved a programme for $39 million, on condition that regular reviews were held. UNICEF, UNDP and UNFPA had already harmonized their programme cycles in Rwanda. One factor which would facilitate implementation of the programme was the movement en masse of entire villages and communities from conflict zones, thereby ensuring continuation of social structures and facilitating the sustainability of interventions designed to empower community groups. Regular health meetings were held where NGOs and church groups participated. UNICEF also was closely working with other agencies and DHA.

77. It was agreed that the Rwanda country programme would be approved on condition that it be subject to annual review with the Government and the donor community. Such an annual review will assess the extent to which the regular programme activities are feasible and allocate available funds as necessary between regular and emergency interventions. The regional director will report annually on this to the Executive Board. (See chap. IV, decisions 1993/4 and 1993/9 for the recommendations of the Committee as adopted by the Executive Board.)

Americas and the Caribbean

78. The Committee had before it four country programme recommendations and a recommendation for subregional basic services in the Andean region (PROANDES), and a recommendation for a supplementary-funded water and sanitation programme in Mexico, as outlined in document E/ICEF/1993/P/L.2 and Add.1. In an introductory statement, the Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean outlined the political, economic, social and programme trends in the region. This was followed by a presentation of the UNICEF representative in Ecuador on that country programme.

79. A number of delegations expressed support for the extension and expansion of SAFLAC for the period 1994-1995, as outlined in the proposed global funds budget (E/ICEF/1993/P/L.3). Speakers acknowledged the positive impact of SAFLAC on programme development, as well as its appropriateness in the context of structural adjustment measures in the region. On behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean States, one delegation proposed that SAFLAC be expanded to include a supplementary funds component.

80. All speakers expressed support for the programme recommendations before the Committee and noted the innovative nature of programming in the region. One delegation said that the region had been a donor of ideas and initiatives to the rest of the world, and another referred to the example of children as a "bridge for peace" in El Salvador. Programmes for children in especially difficult circumstances were highlighted as a particular area of interest and concern. One speaker further noted a need for greater concentration on young people and mentioned the marked decline of boys' participation in the educational system in the Caribbean region.

81. One delegation expressed appreciation for the inclusion of a paragraph on programme strategy analysis in the programme recommendation for Bolivia. It was recommended by the same and another delegation that such an analysis be included in all future programme documentation and subsequently be considered in all country programme evaluations.

82. Speakers took note of incipient AIDS-prevention programmes in the Caribbean, including such innovative strategies as dramatizations and education awareness for youth. One delegation said Caribbean nationals were underrepresented in the UNICEF offices in the region. Other delegations expressed concern for the people of Haiti and hoped that UNICEF and other agencies would be important partners in the process of restoration of democracy in that country. The secretariat said that UNICEF has participated in the preparation of an inter-agency humanitarian assistance programme for Haiti coordinated by DHA and is working with elected officials at the local level.

83. Several delegations indicated strong support for an extension of PROANDES, highlighting the effectiveness of targeted integrated basic services in high-poverty areas. One delegation requested clarification on the proposed funding distribution between countries included in the PROANDES programme and asked why the programme recommendations for Ecuador and Bolivia had not included more references to PROANDES.

84. Regarding the country programme recommendation for Bolivia, some speakers expressed satisfaction with the adherence to recommendations in the evaluation of UNICEF and with UNICEF support for the Government's social strategy. The need for increased cooperation with the central Government was stressed. The extent of UNICEF cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in the field of household food security was raised by one delegation. The relevance and appropriateness of UNICEF efforts to support bilingual, bicultural

education initiatives in Bolivia was lauded and it was suggested that UNICEF also support other elements of the country's educational reform.

85. With regard to the programme recommendation for Ecuador, a number of delegations commented favourably on the presentation made by the representative. One speaker stressed the importance of focusing on vulnerable and indigenous groups in well-defined areas and wondered whether the nutrition goals for the period 1994-1998 were overly ambitious, given current conditions in Ecuador. Greater clarification was also requested on the implementation of proposed income-generating activities.

86. The secretariat explained that the stated nutrition goals for Ecuador could be reached by focused, well-targeted activities in the country programme. These activities included improving food distribution, nutrition education, use of community networks for children and popular kitchens. In addition, the PROANDES programme in Ecuador addressed the need to focus on especially vulnerable groups. UNICEF support for income-generating activities would include collaboration with such agencies and organizations as the World Bank. The Government's Social Investment Fund also included job-creation programmes.

87. With regard to Bolivia, the secretariat said that the Government had facilitated coordination between agencies and that Bolivia had been selected for the formulation of a country strategy note along the lines indicated in General Assembly resolution 47/199. UNICEF had initiated a dialogue with FAO concerning household food security, specifically in the Guaraní area of El Chaco.

88. Concerning the issues of early pregnancy and the role of boys and men, the secretariat said UNICEF was looking to the Caribbean region for innovative ways of dealing with adolescent pregnancies. Reference was made to programmes for better parenting. The role of boys and young men was also being taken seriously by the regional office, especially in the context of the International Year of the Family.

89. In response to the observation about PROANDES, the secretariat explained that a separate paper had been prepared to facilitate a clear presentation of the funding needs for this subregional programme and mentioned the paragraphs in the Bolivia and Ecuador country programme recommendations that include cross references to the PROANDES programme. (See chap. IV, decisions 1993/9 and 1993/10 for the recommendations of the Committee as adopted by the Executive Board.)

Middle East and North Africa

90. The Committee had before it seven country programme recommendations and a recommendation for Palestinian children and women in Jordan, as outlined in document E/ICEF/1993/P/L.2 and Add.1. The Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa gave an overview of the region, touching on the democratization process, high urbanization trends, child health problems, gender and other disparities among and within countries and the lingering effects of the Persian Gulf crisis. It was stressed that global funds were especially useful in this region of common language and culture, where there was high receptivity by countries to prototypes and examples developed in support of global funds.

91. Several delegations expressed their appreciation for the regional overview and their support for the efforts of the region in putting children high on the political agenda. Many delegations from the region made extensive reference to the status of their NPAs and the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. They all emphasized the importance of the high-level meeting on children organized in Tunis, Tunisia, in November 1992 by the League of Arab States with support from UNICEF. It was noted that the Pan-Arab Plan for Children approved at the meeting would be a driving force and provide renewed hope in addressing challenges in the region.

92. A number of delegations from the region requested clarification on the brevity of the progress report on the region and the absence of an in-depth country presentation during this meeting, unlike those for other regions. The secretariat replied that these reflected the decision of the Board and Bureau and that these issues could be raised during the summer organizational session.

93. One speaker requested clarification on the share of funds allocated to education in the region, which had decreased from 1980 levels. The secretariat agreed that the proportion for education was low and explained that a major difficulty was that countries were slow in developing low-cost programmes reflecting basic education priorities and low-cost approaches. To a degree, the decrease of funds allocated to education in the proportion of total expenditure also could be attributed to the high expenditure in emergency operations in the region. The expenditures for education in the region were planned to reach a target of 20 to 25 per cent of total programme expenditure.

94. Several delegations expressed their appreciation for UNICEF support to emergencies in the region and its response to the needs of children in such conflict situations and natural disasters as the earthquake in Egypt and the floods in Yemen. The visit of the Executive Director to Iraq in 1992 also was mentioned as one of the catalysts for humanitarian assistance to that country.

95. General comments were made on the country programme recommendations. The programme for Yemen drew expressions of support, especially for its MCH components, but also was seen as very ambitious. Carefully designed projects would be needed, as well as more emphasis on institutional development and capacity-building. It was noted by one delegation that mechanisms for inter-agency cooperation, as well as for institution-building, needed to be spelt out in a more detailed manner. In addition, a proper basis needed to be established for specific percentage targets mentioned in the programme recommendation.

96. The secretariat noted the comments on sustainability of some of the programmes and agreed that the documentation could be reviewed to address areas requiring more attention. On the issue of payment of salary subsidies to government staff raised by one delegation, it was noted that this subject was also discussed in a separate report (E/ICEF/1993/P/L.33), which could be taken up during relevant discussions on interregional funds.

97. Attention was drawn to the difficulties faced by Libya in importing baby food, essential drugs and perishable goods, including vaccines, and in maintaining the cold chain as a result of sanctions. UNICEF was called upon to help address the situation. The secretariat responded that several missions had been carried out from the regional office and steps were being taken to assess the cold chain and to support the preparation of a situation analysis, which would lead to the finalization of an NPA.

98. Two delegations called for increased assistance to Palestinian children, especially in areas concerning disabilities and psycho-social trauma resulting from hostilities. Speakers referred to the wide range of problems faced by Palestinian children in the region, among them the deterioration in education due to the repeated closure of schools, the poor condition of premises and insufficient preparation of teachers. More coordination was requested among United Nations agencies, together with increased support to NGOs.

99. Delegations of several donor countries expressed serious reservations about paragraphs in the situation analysis in the Iraq country programme recommendation and stated that the document gave the impression that international sanctions were the sole cause of the sad situation of children in that country. One delegation also stated that the Security Council resolution which allowed Iraq to export oil and import humanitarian supplies was not mentioned explicitly. These speakers reminded the Committee that national Governments bore primary responsibility for the humanitarian situation of their populations. The same delegations indicated, however, that they would not prevent approval of the proposed programme, but would later raise such issues on a bilateral basis with the secretariat. The secretariat responded that UNICEF-supported programmes, including the one in Iraq, were prepared and implemented with scrupulous regard for the needs of children and in the spirit of the organization's non-political approach. (See chap. IV, decision 1993/9 for the recommendation of the Committee as adopted by the Executive Board.)

Asia

100. The Committee had before it recommendations for programme cooperation in seven countries in Asia, as outlined in document E/ICEF/1993/P/L.2 and Add.1. The Regional Directors for East Asia and the Pacific and for South Asia made brief presentations, followed by a presentation by the UNICEF representative in Bangladesh.

101. Many delegations referred to the important catalytic role of UNICEF in the region. UNICEF programmes had enjoyed remarkable success in Asia. Speakers also referred to the fact that South Asia had the largest number of children in the world. Delegations from the region highlighted the status of NPAs in their countries. Many referred to the goals for children that were reiterated by the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) in various declarations, including the Colombo Resolution on Children of September 1992. The continued focus of SAARC on the child, particularly the girl child, was commended by delegations from other regions. The East Asia and Pacific region also was commended for such efforts in the follow-up to the World Summit for Children.

102. Despite the achievements to date in the Asia region as a whole, it was emphasized that concerted efforts would be required by Governments and the international community to sustain the implementation of NPAs. One delegation stressed the need for achieving a meaningful balance between hope and feasibility in NPAs and for establishing realistic decade goals. Delegations stressed the importance of basic education in the region and one requested that UNICEF undertake a study on basic education in South Asia. He also raised the issue of achieving regional self-sufficiency in vaccines in EPI and requested renewed emphasis on this matter, including through the Children's Vaccine Initiative.

103. Delegations agreed unanimously on the importance of inter-agency coordination and cooperation within the framework of a country strategy. There was general support for the country programme recommendations. Delegations commented favourably on UNICEF-assisted efforts to achieve or maintain UCI, as well as the emphasis on CDD, acute respiratory infections (ARI) and prevention of AIDS and the attention being paid to safe motherhood, basic education and children in especially difficult circumstances.

104. Regarding the China country programme, it was noted that despite a general picture of overall improvement and high UCI achievements, there remained large disparities within the country. Similarly, it was pointed out that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, despite excellent achievements in immunization, school enrolment, nutrition and reduction of child and infant mortality, still had disparities that needed to be addressed.

105. It was noted by delegations that Bangladesh, a country with high population density, widespread poverty and a disaster-prone natural environment, was a good choice to illustrate UNICEF activities in the region. A number of delegations commended the programme's objectives as highly appropriate, with adequate emphasis on capacity-building, advocacy and social mobilization. The focus on family planning and oral rehydration therapy (ORT) was seen as necessary. The intention to improve the quality of tetanus toxoid vaccine production was noted and the secretariat was asked for more information. It was remarked with approval that the implementation of the bridging programmes would result in synchronization of programme cycles with the national development plan. The cooperation and joint planning with other donors was also commended.

106. One delegation remarked that Bangladesh was one of the countries studied as part of the evaluation of UNICEF and that the programme should present the choice of strategies more clearly. The programme needed to pay more attention to the issue of strengthening health service points. A number of delegations noted that micronutrient deficiency disorders were addressed through supplementation, such as distribution of vitamin A capsules, rather than through ensuring adequate intake of suitable foods, for example, by encouraging home vegetable gardens and fishponds. Growth monitoring, it was said, also should be complemented by addressing the issue of household food security. One speaker, on behalf of a group of delegations, said

that while the "baby-friendly" hospital initiative was important, it was not the answer to all problems, particularly where undernourished women were concerned.

107. Delegations noted with approval the attention given to AIDS, children in especially difficult circumstances, UCI, nutrition and education in the Philippines programme. One speaker said this programme met the test of selectivity of strategic interventions. Another speaker encouraged communication and coordination with the "AIDSCAP" programme office in Bangkok, which is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The checklist of indicators on integrating the concerns of women and girls into each state of the project development cycle was noted. UNICEF was encouraged to cooperate more closely with ILO on child labour issues and urged to have a more active position on family planning issues. Another delegation cautioned that UNICEF would need to be less optimistic about donors and supplementary funding and that more modest programming would be needed.

108. Speakers noted that the present proposal for Malaysia was the country's last programme of cooperation with UNICEF and that it was on the threshold of a new relationship with UNICEF, when it would join the ranks of "graduate" countries. (See chap. IV, decision 1993/9 for the recommendation of the Committee as adopted by the Executive Board.)

Central and Eastern Europe and the new independent States

109. The Committee had before it a report on UNICEF activities during the past year in Central and Eastern Europe and the new independent States (E/ICEF/1993/L.7), as well as recommendations for country programmes in nine countries, as indicated in document E/ICEF/1993/P/L.2 and Add.1. After a brief introduction by the Deputy Executive Director, Programmes, concerning UNICEF involvement in the region, the representative-designate for Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan made a brief presentation.

110. Delegations expressed general support for the report on UNICEF activities in the region and grave concern at the deteriorating situation in the former Soviet Union. Several delegations from countries in the region highlighted the negative impact of the transition on vulnerable groups and the scope and complexity of problems, including rising child morbidity and mortality rates, increasing numbers of street children, rising numbers of child abuse cases and teenage suicides and the widespread phenomenon of "social orphans", whose parents, because of their inability to provide for their children, had abandoned them to the care of the state. Of particular concern were the deterioration of social services and the large number of such emergency situations as inter-ethnic and interreligious conflict, earthquakes and natural disasters.

111. Speakers noted that given its limited resources, UNICEF had responded well to the critical needs of children and women in the region. Broad support was expressed for UNICEF continuing to play a major role in international collective efforts to assist such vulnerable groups. The findings and reports of the UNICEF/WHO collaborative missions of February-March 1992 to the former Soviet Union had generated interest and awareness in the international community. A speaker from a country that had received such emergency assistance noted that despite the "loud" emergencies in the region, assistance to long-term development should not be reduced. The same speaker said that emergency assistance to some of the countries of the former Soviet Union would contribute towards enabling them to become donor countries in the near future.

112. Some delegations hoped that in countries that did not qualify as recipients for UNICEF assistance, UNICEF could expand and intensify its role in assisting the development of social policy legislation, providing emergency health needs and carrying out advocacy for children. These delegations also outlined such NGO-supported activities in these countries as the "baby-friendly" hospital initiative and the creation of National Committees for UNICEF. Some speakers noted the serious drawback of inadequate national capacity resulting from lack of relevant experience.

113. A number of delegations expressed appreciation for the support by UNICEF and the German National Committee to the joint United Nations Educational, Scientific

and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)/UNICEF rehabilitation centres project for victims of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. Also noted were recent instances of assistance to the countries of the former Soviet Union channeled through UNICEF, including assistance from Canada to Belarus, the Russian Federation and the Ukraine for emergency health supplies; and assistance from Japan to Kyrgyzstan for vaccine and cold-chain equipment. It was also noted that Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan were on the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) list of countries eligible for ODA. Since Armenia and Azerbaijan were not included in this list, UNICEF was advised to proceed with more caution before initiating long-term assistance to these two countries.

114. A group of delegations reiterated some guiding principles for assistance from the United Nations system to Central and Eastern Europe and the new independent States. First and foremost, such assistance should not impair the capacity to assist developing countries, since developing countries should be the primary recipients of multilateral and bilateral aid. Delegations stressed the principle of universality in multilateral assistance. In this context, the same criteria for eligibility should apply to all countries. However, UNICEF was urged to give attention to the poorest countries and the poorest population groups in Central and Eastern Europe and the new independent States.

115. Given the magnitude of problems and scarcity of resources, the importance of coordination with other donors in information-gathering activities, including the WHO clearinghouse on assistance to the new independent States and the USAID EPI programmes in the Central Asian republics. The secretariat stressed that there was an ongoing relationship with the WHO clearinghouse, as well as information exchanges with such donors as USAID and the World Bank.

116. UNICEF was urged by several delegations to seize the opportunity to contribute strongly to the process of setting up a unified United Nations presence and approach in the new independent States, in the spirit of General Assembly resolution 47/199. A group of delegations stated that UNDP should have an overall responsibility for coordinating the planning process. These speakers noted that the programme documents had not been very clear on the nature of the UNICEF presence in the new independent States and requested information on how coordination would be achieved in practice, how UNICEF would participate in financing and how respective actors would function within an integrated country strategy. The secretariat responded that when the situation regarding a common United Nations presence became clearer, it would be possible for UNICEF to be more explicit. Meanwhile, UNICEF was cooperating fully with UNDP and other sister agencies, using already established coordination mechanisms. However, it had not always been invited to Consultative Group meetings on this region; in such instances, the secretariat had found inadequate emphasis had been given to the human dimensions of development.

117. There was general broad support for the eight new country programmes before the Committee. UNICEF was urged to avoid heavy administrative structures and delivery mechanisms and to utilize fully local resources in these programmes. The secretariat stressed that some two thirds of the posts proposed were for national staff. Regarding programme content, some delegations stressed the need for more attention to women's health and family planning advocacy, given the high rates of abortion in the region. In the Azerbaijan programme, UNICEF was encouraged to address specifically the situation of displaced persons in the Nakhchyvan region.

118. The programmes for Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan were commended by a number of delegations. One delegation noted that these programmes were laudable in that not too many activities were attempted. UNICEF was to be congratulated for recognizing that resources were limited and for practicing accordingly "the principle of selectivity" in defining its programmes. Such selectivity should be practised more often in other UNICEF programmes. Two delegations noted that attention should be drawn to the environmental degradation in the Aral Sea region in Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan and in the Semipalatinsk region of Kazakhstan.

119. The urgent need for rehabilitation of Albania's health care system was emphasized by two delegations, together with the need for training of personnel and technical assistance, not only at community and district levels, but also at higher

levels. UNICEF was urged to monitor closely and follow the programme, especially in the starting-up phase, and to refine the proposed estimated expenditures to give a better idea of the programme's activities. One speaker questioned the lack of an essential drugs programme. The secretariat responded that the UNICEF programme would include essential drugs components relating to CDD and control of ARI. More information was requested and provided on bilateral donors cooperating with UNICEF in Albania. Further details on the contents and objectives of the proposed analysis of the education sector were also requested.

120. Speakers commended UNICEF support for activities in Romania, given the programme's very modest level of staffing and funding, and remarked that these efforts should be continued. One delegation expressed regret that approval of activities for 1993 would take place before the results of the situation analysis were available. The same delegation would have liked to have seen a reference to gypsy and street children in the portion of the recommendation for supplementary funding in Romania on children with special needs; not doing so might create the impression that no follow-up to those activities was needed. In responding, the secretariat referred to UNICEF-supported studies on gypsy children in Romania. (See chap. IV, decision 1993/9 for the recommendation of the Committee as adopted by the Executive Board.)

VIII. UNICEF INVOLVEMENT IN FAMILY PLANNING

121. The Committee had before it a report on the UNICEF policy on family planning (E/ICEF/1993/L.5), which was introduced by the Deputy Executive Director, Programmes. The Deputy Executive Director (Programme) of UNFPA addressed the Committee and welcomed the clarification of the role of UNICEF in supporting family planning as an integral part of MCH activities and services. He noted that the issue of family planning was no longer the sensitive one that the document seemed to imply and emphasized that breast-feeding was effective in preventing pregnancy only during the first three to six months after childbirth when the infant is receiving no other food. He endorsed the UNICEF position of not promoting any particular family planning method and said UNFPA promoted the concept of informed choice. He went on to summarize UNFPA/UNICEF collaborative activities. He also expressed appreciation for the strong support by UNICEF for the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development.

122. A number of speakers commended UNICEF for achieving a balance that recognized various regional, cultural, religious and other differences as regards family planning. One speaker from a donor country stressed that cultural sensitivity was crucial. Two delegations noted that the report had omitted, in the Executive Director's recommendations and in the annex, references to the need for cultural sensitivity and respect for cultural, religious and social traditions. The language of the annex also differed significantly from that adopted at the World Summit for Children. The secretariat explained that the common goals for UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO listed in the annex had been adopted in May 1990, before the World Summit document was drawn up and endorsed, and hence the differences in language.

123. It was appreciated by many speakers that UNICEF intended to be a major participant in the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development. The links between population and development, and between fertility levels, levels of socio-economic development and the role and status of women, were emphasized by several delegations. The beneficial effects of family planning on child survival, nutritional health and the general quality of life were stressed. This group of delegations also reaffirmed the fundamental right of individuals to choose voluntarily the number and spacing of their children and the importance of providing assistance only to programmes free of coercive and discriminatory elements. One delegation from this group stated that his Government would strengthen its support to those developing countries which made a commitment to a demographic policy.

124. One speaker pointed out that three of the five regional preparatory conferences for 1994 Conference had incorporated issues of migration and refugees, the family and the protection of its values, conservation of resources and excessive consumerism and restructuring of debt servicing, all of which were relevant to population issues. He suggested that UNICEF prepare reports on these other linkages

as part of its contribution to the Conference and that the title of the report under discussion be changed to "UNICEF involvement in family planning, taking into account the health of the child and the mother". Another delegation agreed that family planning issues went beyond the size of families and provision of contraceptives and urged UNICEF to take a lead in strengthening family cohesion, an issue complementary to that of right to life, protection and development for children.

125. Many delegations from developing countries described the national population policies and activities in their countries, including full respect for the dignity of couples, renewed emphasis on the role of males, greater use of family planning methods and increased programmes that target adolescents. One speaker stated that population programmes should be viewed as programmes for the empowerment of women. Another speaker underlined the need for such programmes by citing cases where doctors ask the husband for permission before providing contraceptives to his wife. Reproductive health education for young girls, the same speaker noted, should be provided in schools.

126. Several delegations stressed the need for concerted and coherent cooperation among all relevant organizations dealing with population and family planning issues, particularly UNFPA. Speakers generally endorsed the Executive Director's proposal to develop indicators of collaboration with UNFPA, WHO and other agencies in family planning, as listed in document E/ICEF/1993/L.5. However, one delegation felt that the indicators did not go far enough and requested the addition of such criteria as the number of programmes or projects co-financed by UNICEF, WHO and UNFPA, aggregate levels of support and the proportion of the UNICEF contribution.

127. One group of delegations argued that information, education and communication (IEC) activities focusing on sexual and health education, information on contraception and on sexually-transmitted diseases (STDs), including HIV/AIDS, should not be limited to married couples or adults, but should also be targeted at much younger age-groups. UNICEF also should provide increased support to actions and policies aimed at reducing violence, sexual abuse and child prostitution. One delegation stated that messages on birth spacing in the UNESCO/UNICEF/WHO publication Facts for Life were rather diffuse. Another delegation highlighted the situation of child mothers.

128. A group of delegations felt that in addition to the category of population-related actions aimed at improving living conditions in general and enhancing the role and status of women in particular, UNICEF should also play an important role in a second category of actions which promotes access to family planning services. Given its pre-eminent strengths in child survival and other development-related areas, UNICEF should utilize fully its comparative advantages in an approach that would go beyond that indicated in the Executive Director's report. It was suggested by two groups of delegations that UNICEF field delivery systems be utilized to distribute contraceptives, especially in view of the fight against STDs, including HIV/AIDS. This would mean integrated planning within national development plans to ensure a holistic concept. It was requested that operational guidelines be sent out to UNICEF field offices. Another delegation pointed out that provision of contraceptives was an approved United Nations policy and, to be consistent with this approach, UNICEF also should distribute contraceptives, provided by UNFPA, where needed.

129. Some speakers raised the issue of abortion. It was remarked by several delegations that while abortion should never be used as a method of family planning, abortion can also never be totally prevented, even when family planning services are available. These delegations suggested that a full range of safe clinical services therefore be available and that UNICEF should, within the safe motherhood initiative, provide information about access to legal and safe abortion. However, one delegation from a donor country specifically reaffirmed the UNICEF position that UNICEF not support abortion.

130. One delegation, supported by others, warned that UNICEF should concentrate its efforts within its specific mandate, which is to nourish, protect and care for children and to fight against ignorance, disease and the exploitation of children. Funds to fight even this battle were limited, as witnessed by the "20/20" initiative to encourage appropriate prioritization of resources. Thus, for UNICEF to increase

its activities in fields that were not part of its specific traditional mandate would duplicate and, by extension, waste scarce resources.

131. It was cautioned that UNICEF should remain free from public controversy. Attention was drawn to the fact that UNICEF, unlike other United Nations agencies, had a large amount of its funding from private contributions generated by a vast amount of public goodwill. One speaker appreciated that the UNICEF approach did not tamper with cultural and traditional harmony. Another delegation from a country with a large child population stressed that it was inappropriate for UNICEF to play a primary role in family planning; instead, it should support UNFPA. (See chap. IV, decision 1993/11 for the recommendation of the Committee as adopted by the Executive Board.)

IX. PROGRESS REPORT ON FOLLOW-UP TO THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN

132. The Committee had before it a progress report on the follow-up to the World Summit for Children (E/ICEF/1993/12), which was introduced by the Deputy Executive Director, Programmes. Speakers expressed general satisfaction with the report, and a number of delegations, from both developing and industrialized countries, reported on their Governments' own Summit follow-up measures. These interventions touched on such considerations as the incorporation of NPAs into national development planning processes; the creation of special institutions and committees; the involvement of provincial and local governments; the mobilization of NGOs, the private sector and communities; and the reallocation of national budgets to increase resources for the social sector.

133. One donor country delegation, while congratulating the secretariat on the paper and expressing satisfaction that the role of UNICEF with regard to NPAs had shifted from advocacy to support for capacity-building for NPA implementation, indicated some concern that mid-decade goals might lead to short-term and non-sustainable actions and could favour programme delivery strategies at the expense of capacity-building and empowerment. The secretariat indicated that while it shared this concern, it did not favour approaches that would have such consequences. It also cited the example of another delegation, which reported on how the pursuit of its mid-decade goal to achieve 80 per cent ORT use was a means to achieve the goal of reducing diarrhoeal deaths by the year 2000. It also was pointed out that a similar concern regarding the decade goals had not been borne out in the country programmes covered by the evaluation of UNICEF.

134. Several delegations stressed that implementation of NPAs was more important and more difficult than their preparation. These speakers pointed out that translation into concrete measures could not be achieved without the NPA being firmly rooted in, and supported by, the national Government and the people of the country involved. Therefore, the NPAs should form part of long-term national development plans. One delegation emphasized that some NPAs had now reached a stage where they needed a realistic follow-up, and UNICEF was urged to help prevent the Summit goals from becoming an exercise only in preparing plans of action.

135. A question was raised as to whether NPAs were being taken seriously in negotiations concerning structural adjustment. One delegation from a developing country reported on how social sector allocations have increased in the national policy framework paper. The secretariat reported on the discussions between UNICEF and international financial institutions on making NPAs more central to social sector policy and on the various references to NPAs and the Summit goals in World Bank documents. However, it was noted that, ultimately, the centrality of NPAs would depend on the priorities of the Governments themselves.

136. Several delegations also reported on actions taken with respect to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. One delegation, while supporting ratification of the Convention by all countries before 1995, stressed that implementation was more important than ratification and inquired about the secretariat's relations with the Committee on the Rights of the Child. The delegation was assured that implementation was taken with equal, indeed greater, seriousness by the secretariat as evidenced by the support it was giving countries to monitor their implementation of the Convention. UNICEF sees the reports sent by

countries to the Committee, works in coordination with it and provides technical assistance as requested. The secretariat welcomed the proposal that a member of the Committee address a future session of the Executive Board, subject to whatever modifications the Board and its procedures might undergo in the near future. (See chap. IV, decisions 1992/12 and 1993/13 for the recommendations of the Committee as adopted by the Executive Board.)

X. CHILDREN, ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

137. The Committee addressed the report on children, environment and development and the UNICEF response to Agenda 21 (E/ICEF/1993/L.2), which was introduced by the Deputy Executive Director, Programmes. In his statement, he said the term "primary environmental care" (PEC) was first used in 1989 by the Italian delegation at a meeting of the OECD Development Assistance Committee.

138. Several speakers strongly endorsed the validity of PEC for community-level action and for influencing national policy. Other speakers supported the appropriateness of UNICEF involvement in environment and sustainable development in response to Agenda 21. Various delegations said that the objective of UNICEF should be to integrate PEC into its current programmes rather than to create additional programmes.

139. Delegations highlighted various programmes and activities that fit in well within the PEC framework. The secretariat was urged to contribute to increased environmental awareness through active participation of children and women as part of formal and non-formal education, "third channel" activities and social mobilization. A number of delegations stressed the importance of programmes for safe drinking water supply, environmental sanitation and hygiene education and asked that sanitation be strengthened more systematically. Integrated basic services programmes in urban and rural areas were also seen as a means of introducing such suitable environmental components as agroforestry and small-scale irrigation. One speaker pointed out that while children undeniably have a "first call" on resources, as the document makes clear, all life on earth needs to be protected in the interests of biodiversity.

140. Several delegations emphasized that the empowerment of women and other marginalized groups should be the central focus for all such activities. There were expressions of appreciation for the emphasis given in the report to poverty and ecological vulnerability. Partnership with NGOs for poverty alleviation was of special significance. It was suggested that special attention be given to the socio-economic factors of the desertification process in Africa and of the ecological degradation in the Himalaya mountains. While appreciating the value of PEC in relation to community-level action, one speaker pointed out that influencing policies at the national level should not be forgotten.

141. A group of delegations pointed out that while the document provided a good basis for starting necessary action and rightly emphasized the need to identify target groups and develop methods and indicators, it did not adequately address issues concerning the strategy for implementing PEC. Full participation of women and other marginalized groups should be part of this strategy. In addition, UNICEF should advocate inter-generational equity - the balance between the needs of present and future generations.

142. Another delegation pointed out the need for clearly delineated objectives and specifications for initiating pilot activities to ensure that they reinforce the comparative advantages of UNICEF. One speaker suggested the possibility of carrying out participatory "risk mapping" in the community in order to protect the environment and mitigate the effects of emergencies due to environmental disasters.

143. It was recommended that UNICEF give due consideration to institutional frameworks for implementing PEC and that attention be paid to updating relevant UNICEF staff training. Speakers stressed the need for collaboration with the Commission for Sustainable Development and other relevant United Nations bodies. (See chap. IV, decision 1993/14 for the recommendation of the Committee as adopted by the executive Board.)

XI. CHILDREN'S VACCINE INITIATIVE

144. The Committee reviewed the progress report on the Children's Vaccine Initiative (E/ICEF/1993/L.3), which was introduced by the Deputy Executive Director, Programmes.

145. Speakers noted with satisfaction the significant progress in two major areas: addressing the issues of ensuring a sustainable supply of high-quality, affordable vaccines for use in developing countries; and developing a strategic plan for vaccine research and development and initiating a programme of research on a more heat-stable polio vaccine, delayed release tetanus vaccine and improved measles vaccine.

146. One delegation praised the leadership and key role of UNICEF in organizing the task force to study the global vaccine market and in providing support for strengthening the production capacity of, and quality assurance in, developing countries. Other delegations highlighted the critical importance of the production capacity of developing countries and encouraged the continued leadership of UNICEF in this area.

147. A group of delegations praised the achievements of the task forces on vaccine situation analysis and quality control, which were working to strengthen the capacity of developing countries and to provide guidance in negotiating with suppliers in industrial countries. The urgent priority of these activities was stressed and it was stated that UNICEF support for developing new vaccines should be a second priority. More detailed information was requested on UNICEF support to strengthening vaccine delivery and epidemiology capacity.

XII. ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME

148. Discussion on the progress in UNICEF programme activities in the prevention of HIV and in reducing the impact of AIDS on families and communities centred on the report (E/ICEF/1993/L.10) prepared in response to Executive Board decision 1992/26 (E/ICEF/1992/14). The Deputy Executive Director, Programmes, introduced the report.

149. Several delegations welcomed the increased involvement of UNICEF in this area and its approach focusing on youth, women and children and appreciated that such hard-to-reach groups as street children, out-of-school children and orphans were included in prevention activities. Various speakers stressed that more specific attention needed to be given to young girls, since they were vulnerable to sexual abuse. One delegation noted that the ability to control the pandemic would depend eventually on the ability to control it among youth and women. It was pointed out by others that women were often at risk due to the behaviour of their partners, which they could not control, and that this was especially true of young women. Another delegation, commending the UNICEF choice of target groups, underlined that even in conditions of relative freedom, behaviour patterns were established at a young age and that the traditional UNICEF clientele of youth and children were indeed the most appropriate target groups for information and education activities.

150. Several delegations welcomed the multisectoral approach of UNICEF. One group of delegations was pleased with the emphasis on societal factors. Other speakers noted that the approach reflected a balanced approach on both medical and societal-focused interventions and stressed that education must be provided to young people not only on avoiding HIV infection, but also on fundamental issues of sexuality and gender equality. The report's description of the complexity of problem was welcomed.

151. There was general agreement that limited approaches did not address the root causes of the larger societal and moral problems. One delegation was encouraged to find reference in the report to responsible sexual behaviour, but regarding education and information, urged greater sensitivity on the part of UNICEF in interplay between the perceived needs of youth on the one hand and the duty and prerogative of parents as moral guardians and the primary source of guidance on the other. The same delegation also regretted that the report did not mention abstinence as the viable choice outside of the context of marriage, especially as it

was the most effective method of preventing the spread of AIDS in terms of medical effectiveness, cost-effectiveness and moral sustainability. Language which called for due respect for cultural, religious and social traditions also was requested.

152. One group of delegations requested more specific information on the present involvement of UNICEF in the areas of education and condom promotion and appreciated the mention of HIV-related tuberculosis. Another group stated that the intervention areas were well chosen in so far as UNICEF could utilize its large field expertise in such areas as social mobilization, service delivery and IEC. They further suggested that UNICEF expand its activities relating to community-based programmes for changing behaviour and practices and noted with satisfaction the emphasis on the promotion of sexual and reproductive health. This should be approached from an integrated perspective within the context of MCH, family planning and PHC. These delegations suggested that the distribution of condoms be integrated with already established systems.

153. One delegation spoke highly of the speed of development of the UNICEF HIV/AIDS prevention programme. Other delegations commended the work being done in prevention efforts, but called for more action by the international community for the care of AIDS orphans and for families affected by AIDS. With the rise of infection among women, a greater impact on children could be expected.

154. A group of delegations urged UNICEF to continue its active participation in improving international coordination in the fight against HIV/AIDS. The task force established by the Global Management Committee of the WHO Global Programme on AIDS was mentioned in this regard. These speakers also noted the importance of national-level coordination and reiterated that all agencies' plans and actions must be within national AIDS control programmes and national policies. A number of delegations outlined the situation regarding HIV/AIDS or prevention/reduction activities in their countries. Other speakers stressed the need for all agencies and NGOs to work together in an integrated and coordinated approach, respecting each other's comparative advantages. It was underlined that even better coordination would be required at the community level.

XIII. UNICEF/WHO JOINT COMMITTEE ON HEALTH POLICY

155. The report on the twenty-ninth session of the UNICEF/WHO Joint Committee on Health Policy (JCHP) (E/ICEF/1993/L.11) was introduced by the Chairman of the Executive Board, the UNICEF rapporteur. A representative of WHO outlined the collaboration between the two agencies.

156. Delegations made favourable comments on the increased focus on decentralization and capacity-building at the district level. However, it was noted that the success of various strategies adopted to this end by multilateral and bilateral organizations and NGOs has varied. One group of delegations stressed that health sector performance at the district level did not automatically improve with decentralization and that UNICEF should therefore participate in the analysis of the factors that would determine successful strengthening of capacity at district level. At the same time, UNICEF was urged to intensify its efforts in developing strategies specific to each country for support of PHC services, with a special focus on the district level, together with such partners as national ministries, WHO and the World Bank.

157. One delegation endorsed the concept of establishing intermediate goals as a stepping stone to achieving the goals of the World Summit for Children. The progress made by UNICEF and WHO in developing a common set of indicators for this purpose also was commended. UNICEF was urged to disseminate these indicators to the field as soon as possible. UNICEF was also urged to work with WHO in launching the "mother and baby package".

158. Delegations also approved such other issues addressed by JCHP as the promotion of the health of children and youth, the "baby-friendly" hospital initiative, the Bamako Initiative and malaria control. However, it was noted that the JCHP agenda was very full and one delegation recommended that in future, the agenda focus more

narrowly on policy questions. (See chap. IV, decisions 1993/15 and 1993/16 for the recommendations of the Committee as adopted by the Executive Board.)

XIV. ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

159. The Programme Committee held its eleventh meeting on Friday, 7 May, to take action on proposals made by the drafting sessions and to make its final recommendations to the Executive Board. The recommendations made to the Board are contained in the statement of the Chairman of the Committee (E/ICEF/1993/P/L.34) and in chapter IV of the present report.

160. With regard to item 11 of the Committee's agenda, "Progress report on the follow-up to the World Summit for Children", one speaker said several delegations wanted the Executive Director to play an active role in the preparatory process for the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development and to contribute substantively to the Conference in relation to the development and well-being of children. In addition to the UNICEF contribution on family planning, as stated in document E/ICEF/1993/L.5 and decision 1993/11, the contribution should deal with the family in the changing world, its values, its role and its constraints and the situation of children who are deprived of family support; migration, population displacement and refugee situations; urbanization; and severe poverty, severe social or economic disparity and structural adjustments. The speaker added that several delegations were not in a position to support this request.

161. A brief discussion ensued during which some delegations referred to the informal negotiations concerning a draft decision that had been proposed, and subsequently withdrawn, concerning the Executive Director's proposed contribution to the 1994 Conference. The outcome of those negotiations was an agreement that instead of a formal resolution, the present report would include the views of the concerned delegations, as stated in the preceding paragraph.

Annex II

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE ON ITS MEETINGS HELD AT UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS FROM 3 TO 5 MAY AND ON 7 MAY 1993

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

1. The Committee on Administration and Finance of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) held seven meetings, with Ms. Birte Poulsen (Denmark) as Chairman, assisted by the Vice-Chairman, Miss Khadijatu Mansaray (Sierra Leone).

2. The provisional agenda, contained in annex II of document E/ICEF/1993/1/Rev.1, was adopted by the Committee. Observations and inquiries were made by delegations on each agenda item. The secretariat provided clarifications and answers prior to the Committee's action on each item.

II. FINANCIAL MEDIUM-TERM PLAN, 1993-1996

3. The Committee reviewed the financial medium-term plan contained in document E/ICEF/1993/3.

4. Several delegations commented on the changes to the format of the medium-term plan and suggested that further improvements were possible. The secretariat concurred and added that UNICEF would continue efforts to improve the document.

5. Several delegations said that the income projections in the financial medium-term plan were reasonable as an indicative framework for planning expenditure levels. Some delegations were concerned that the income projections were too optimistic given the current financial situation faced by many donor countries, while another delegation noted that UNICEF has not had difficulties meeting its income projections in the past. Some delegations asked how much of the income forecast is assured and attainable. The secretariat responded that although a large portion of the current year's income forecast is based on actual pledges, the future year's income estimates are based on the best available information since donors do not make multi-year pledges to general resources. The secretariat added that income forecasts are used as an indicative framework, and the financial plan is adjusted each year on a rolling basis to reflect actual results and the latest information. The secretariat explained further that since the financial medium-term plan was prepared when the United States dollar was at a high level compared to European currencies, there was the possibility of increased income should the dollar value weaken.

6. Several delegations commented on the current high cash balance and questioned whether the liquidity policy needed to be changed. Some delegations agreed with the suggestion of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) that UNICEF should not reduce general resources cash balances to the recommended minimum requirement, while others suggested that given the current high balances there was little risk for UNICEF to be more aggressive in reducing cash balances. The secretariat suggested that delegations distinguish between the year-end balances for general resources and supplementary funds. For supplementary funds, the secretariat explained that several large emergency contributions were paid late in the year which caused the high year-end balance. The related expenditures for these contributions will take place in 1993. For general resources, the secretariat explained how the financial plan reduces the cash balance to the 10 per cent requirement by the end of 1995 in an orderly way to have the most positive impact on programme implementation. On the need to change the liquidity policy, the secretariat reported that a working group was reviewing the policy and, if necessary, a new policy would be presented to the Board at the 1994 regular session.

7. Some delegations noted that the financial plan assumed a reduction in contributions for emergencies and an increase in contributions to regular programmes. Another delegation remarked that it was difficult to predict the future needs for emergencies, and the secretariat concurred. The secretariat explained that the forecasted reduction in emergency contributions was not due to perceived future fund-raising difficulties for emergencies. The financial plan recognizes that an extraordinary number of major emergencies occurred in 1992 and assumes that future needs may be less.

8. One delegation asked why the $384 million in programme recommendations to be prepared for the 1994 Executive Board session is less than the amount of programme recommendations the Executive Board was approving at the current session. The secretariat explained that this was not due to any plan to reduce programme expenditures. The amount of programme recommendations the Executive Board approves each year is determined by the number of five-year country programmes due for renewal. In a year when a very large country programme recommendation is being approved or the biennial global funds budget is being approved, the total amount of the programme recommendations will be higher than in other years.

9. One delegation asked why table 2 in the financial medium-term plan showed programme recommendations submitted to the Executive Board for 1993 of $384 million, while the "round-up" document (E/ICEF/1993/P/L.2) showed new submissions in the amount of $427 million. The secretariat drew the delegation's attention to the footnote in table 2 that explains how savings on expiring country programmes are subtracted from the new submission total of $427 million to arrive at the $384 million in the financial medium-term plan.

10. One delegation noted that the forecast of expenditures for supplementary funds was higher than that for income and asked the secretariat if this indicated that general resources were going to be used to fund supplementary funds programmes. The secretariat explained that the difference in income and expenditure was due to timing differences between recognizing income and implementing programmes; it was not an indication of plans to use general resources to fund supplementary-funded programmes. (See chap. IV, decision 1993/17 for the recommendation of the Committee as adopted by the Executive Board.)

III. FINAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN

11. The Committee reviewed the final financial statements for the World Summit for Children (E/ICEF/1993/AB/L.13).

12. One Board member, while supporting the recommendation, suggested that the secretariat should have consulted informally with National Committees for UNICEF before presenting the recommendation to the session since National Committees were the largest contributors to the mobilization budget. The secretariat apologized for the lack of consultation and assured the delegation that consultations will take place before the balances remaining in the special account for the International Conference on Assistance to African Children are closed.

13. In response to a query about why the paper did not contain detailed information on expenditures, the secretariat stated that a paper detailing expenditures was presented at a previous Board session and that the purpose of the present paper was solely to obtain Board approval on the use of the surplus funds.

14. One speaker asked about the nature of the mobilization activities. The secretariat explained that the Board had requested separate Summit budgets: one for the cost of the meeting itself and one for Summit-related mobilization activities. (See chap. IV, decision 1993/18 for the recommendation of the Committee as adopted by the Executive Board.)

IV. UNICEF FINANCIAL REPORTS

15. The Committee considered the following documents:

(a) The interim financial report and statements for the year ended 31 December 1992 (E/ICEF/1993/AB/L.7);

(b) Report to the United Nations Board of Auditors and ACABQ regarding specific measures taken to implement previous recommendations of the Board of Auditors (E/ICEF/1992/AB/L.3);

(c) Review of expenditure in excess of commitments and unspent commitments for completed projects financed by supplementary funds (E/ICEF/1993/AB/L.10);

(d) Reserve for procurement services (E/ICEF/1993/AB/L.11);

(e) Financial report and audited financial statements of UNICEF for the biennium ended 31 December 1991 and report of the Board of Auditors (Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 5B (A/47/5/Add.2));

(f) Report of ACABQ on the 1991 financial report and audited financial statements and reports of the Board of Auditors relating to UNICEF (A/47/500).

16. Several delegations took note of the measures taken by UNICEF in compliance with General Assembly resolution 47/827 and the recommendations of the Board of Auditors. Favourable references were made on the effective measures taken to strengthen budgetary controls and the filling of all posts for internal audit, as well as the secretariat's assurance of further improvements in the internal audit coverage. The secretariat indicated that in line with its goal to strengthen the internal audit function, an additional post for internal audit is included in the submission for new posts to be approved by the Executive Board. The steps taken on non-expendable property and the payment of salary supplements to government employees were also noted. The secretariat confirmed that except for several offices in difficult situations, all other offices have submitted their reports on non-expendable property. UNICEF was discussing the issue of salary supplements with the Joint Consultative Group on Policy and would update the Board on the result of these discussions at the 1994 regular session.

17. Several delegations commented on the level of the procurement services reserve requested. Comments were also made on the possible reduction of costs related to procurement services through improved efficiency and the increased use of temporary staff. One delegation inquired why the special accounts are reflected as a liability on the financial statement. The secretariat explained that the receipts and disbursements related to those transactions are not part of UNICEF income and expenditures and that the transactions are undertaken by UNICEF on behalf of Governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and others.

18. Some delegations referred to the overexpenditures in supplementary-funded projects. The secretariat confirmed that while overexpenditures continued to be incurred, the amounts in 1991 and 1992 were much smaller than those of prior years. One delegation commented on the practice of granting cash assistance (advances) to Governments without the liquidation of prior advances. The secretariat confirmed this is a priority area of concern and assured that all efforts are being exerted to ensure that previous balances are cleared before new advances are made.

19. One delegation raised the question of treating the UNICEF Supply Division as a cost centre. The secretariat stated that UNICEF was studying this possibility among others related to the budgetary treatment of Supply Division operations.

20. One delegation inquired as to the number of instances when competitive bidding has been waived in the procurement of goods. The secretariat explained that the recommendation of the Board of Auditors on competitive bidding was not specifically directed at UNICEF. However, the secretariat assured the delegation that UNICEF consistently uses competitive bidding procedures except in special situations where it can be waived in accordance with UNICEF Financial Regulations and Rules.

21. One delegation inquired about the loss in "other income" in general resources. The secretariat explained that this was due to the foreign exchange losses incurred by UNICEF as a result of the devaluation of the Russian rouble and the strengthening of the United States dollar. (See chap. IV, decision 1993/19 for the recommendation of the Committee as adopted by the Executive Board.)

V. ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROGRAMME SUPPORT BUDGET ESTIMATES

22. The Committee considered the following:

(a) Revised administrative and programme support budget estimates for the biennium 1992-1993 and proposed administrative and programme support budget estimates for the 1994-1995 biennium (E/ICEF/1993/AB/L.1 and Corr.1 and Corr.2);

(b) The report of ACABQ on the administrative and programme support budget estimates contained in E/ICEF/1993/AB/L.2.

23. Most delegations expressed appreciation for the improvements made in the format and presentation of the budget documents which resulted from the work of the Reference Group and were approved by the Executive Board during the 1992 session. However, many delegations were of the view that the format could still be enhanced and documents could be made more "user-friendly". Some delegations expressed their concurrence with the view of ACABQ that the feasibility of consolidating the administrative and programme support budget and the global funds programme budget in one single budget document should be explored with a view to presenting it in a more coherent manner, thereby enhancing the clarity of the documents. The secretariat expressed its appreciation for the comments made on the improvements in the budget documents and welcomed the suggestions offered by delegations for further enhancements to be made both on the existing format and on the possibility of consolidating the budget documents. However, the secretariat was of the view that the two budget documents have major differences and would have to be maintained as separate budget proposals; the administrative and programme support budget is presented by organizational structure, whereas the global programme budget is shown by programme activity. The secretariat further suggested that some elements of the global funds budget (such as posts) and administrative-type costs (such as travel) could be presented in the administrative and programme support budget document for a consolidated picture of the total expenditure line costs for both budgets. One delegation commended the secretariat for the preparation of an informal Board paper showing a consolidated statement of income and expenditures and suggested that the statement be made part of the budget document. The secretariat responded that this consolidated statement will be included as an annex in the administrative and programme support budget submission for the next biennium. The secretariat added that it will further study any refinements that can be made in the presentation of the statement for more clarity and transparency.

24. Several delegations expressed concerned about the proposed higher growth in the administrative and programme support budget compared to general resources programme expenditure. Some Committee members also shared the doubts of ACABQ about whether the proposed growth of the administrative and programme support budget for the 1994-1995 biennium could be sustained if the income projections of the medium-term plan proved to be incorrect. The secretariat assured the delegations that the 1994-1995 biennial budget proposal includes one-time costs of $11.2 million for the WANG migration and $4.0 million due to the conversion of posts after application of the criteria for core and project posts, both of which are not of a recurrent nature; therefore, the budget growth could be sustained.

25. Most delegations expressed their satisfaction with the secretariat's proposal to reduce the revised budget for the biennium 1992-1993 by $4.0 million from the approved biennial budget for 1992-1993.

26. Some delegations shared the view of ACABQ that the secretariat applied the concept of mandatory increases in a very flexible manner, stating specifically that the purchase of global software licenses for standard packages was initiated by management and not mandated by the Executive Board for implementation in 1993. The secretariat responded that the concept of mandatory increases was relevant only when a supplementary budget is being requested for approval by the Executive Board. In this particular case, the secretariat had proposed to reduce the revised budget from its approved levels and would finance mandatory cost increases, including the costs related to Executive Board decision 1992/42 (E/ICEF/1992/14) on Central and Eastern Europe, from savings derived in 1992. The secretariat further reminded the Executive Board that the budget appropriation as stated in the resolution is approved by category and not by budget line, and that the Executive Director has the authority to transfer funds up to a maximum of 5 per cent between budget categories. The purchase of global software licenses, however, was viewed by the secretariat as mandatory because of the legal implications of not acquiring corporate licenses, coupled with the strong recommendation by the internal auditors.

27. Most delegations welcomed the secretariat's proposal to reduce the biennial budget for 1994-1995 by $6.7 million, representing the surrender of the $4.0 million reserve for mandatory increases in response to the ACABQ comment that the proposed budget be based on the revised 1992-1993 budget of $386.9 million, and, therefore, recommended that the proposed 1994-1995 budget be reduced by $4.0 million. The secretariat, however, reminded delegations that the proposed budget will no longer have a reserve provision for mandatory increases for 1994-1995 and the secretariat will have to request a supplementary budget in the future in the event that mandatory costs are incurred. The additional reduction of $2.7 million was a result of the application of a 6 per cent vacancy rate for international Professional posts, compared to the 4 per cent used in the budget proposals, in response to the ACABQ comments on the secretariat's vacancy rate. The secretariat explained that the vacancy rate calculations used by ACABQ in its report included project posts, a number of which require donor funding approval before recruitment is initiated. Moreover, the vacancy rate calculated was for the first year of the biennium (1992), which shows a relatively higher rate since it takes time for the secretariat to fill newly established posts. The latest vacancy rate as of March 1993, the second year of the biennium, was 5.5 per cent for core international Professional posts and 6.36 per cent for all core posts. The secretariat further assured delegations that an internal task force had been formed to accelerate the filling of posts and further reduce the vacancy rate.

28. Several delegations were of the view that the proposed budget for 1994-1995 still represents a high growth rate compared to the growth in general resources programme expenditures. The secretariat responded that the $51.9 million increase in the proposed budget after the $6.7 reduction may seem like a sizeable amount, but the detailed composition of the increases will merit its review. The breakdown of the proposed increase is as follows: $11.2 million for the one-time cost of computer migration to a new platform; $4.0 million due to the increase in core posts as a result of the application of the criteria for core and project posts; a $5.2 million net increase in the proposed opening of new offices in Eritrea and South Africa; and $2.4 million for costs related to decision 1992/42 on Central and Eastern Europe. The balance of the increases was due to the strengthening of regional offices for better internal control to give necessary support to country offices and to provide better capacity to deal with emergency operations, due to their proximity to the field offices; inflationary increases, which were reviewed on an office-by-office basis; and other increases in rent, telecommunications and utilities, which were carefully scrutinized through the internal budget process.

29. Some delegations expressed the view, similar to that of ACABQ, that the secretariat should continue to monitor its supply operations in Copenhagen and the procurement office in New York. The secretariat informed delegations that a study to evaluate the organization's supply operations, which will address all the concerns expressed by ACABQ and the Executive Board, will be conducted and presented to the 1994 regular session of the Executive Board through ACABQ.

30. Some delegations shared the view of ACABQ that the current categorization of posts understates administrative costs and overstates programme expenditure. In view of this, the overhead and administrative ratios are likely to be higher than

presented. Delegations further pointed out that a true definition of administrative costs should be developed so that member States can distinguish between the administrative costs and what are basically the programme support costs of the organization. One delegation proposed that the definition of administrative costs could be further refined to be harmonized with other United Nations agencies, which also have certain differences in some areas. The secretariat expressed its full agreement that there is room for further refinement in the definition of administrative costs and will coordinate with ACABQ on the improvement of the definition so the true administrative and programme support costs may be ascertained. The secretariat assured delegations that the current administrative ratio has stabilized at approximately 20 per cent for the past five years, which is much improved from the previous high level of 25 per cent during 1984.

31. Some delegations expressed their support for the strengthening of regional offices, specifically, their role in supporting emergency operations in Africa; their supportive role in programme planning, implementation and evaluation; and the technical assistance extended to Governments in the preparation of national programmes of action. Several delegations, however, concurred with the recommendation of ACABQ that the secretariat reassess the need and effectiveness of regional offices and that the Executive Director submit his specific recommendations through ACABQ to the 1994 regular session of the Executive Board, and further recommended that the proposed changes affecting regional offices be suspended pending the submission and examination of the review. The secretariat expressed its appreciation for the comments made by ACABQ and delegations on the need to study the role of regional offices. The secretariat recommended that the study be made as an integral part of the global study to be conducted on the administrative and management structures of the secretariat which was to be subsequently discussed for approval by the Executive Board. The secretariat, however, is of the view that the changes recommended in the budget proposal affecting regional offices be implemented now and not deferred until the completion of the global study because of implications to programme delivery and improvements in internal control. Included in the proposal to strengthen the regional offices is the creation of two posts of regional personnel officer. The secretariat believes that this proposal is in line with the ACABQ view that related financial control needs to be strengthened. With the separate post of regional personnel officer, the regional operations officer can concentrate on internal financial controls relevant to the region. Experience has shown that personnel and security issues have occupied the great majority of the administrative functions of the operations officer.

32. Most delegations welcomed the comments of ACABQ on the strengthening of the internal audit operations and related internal financial control of the secretariat and the decision to centralize the audit functions in New York. The secretariat responded that it recognizes the importance of the internal audit function and had proposed the creation of an additional post of internal auditor in the 1994-1995 biennial budget. The centralization of the audit function in New York had been found effective, with the frequency of field office audits to be increased to every three years per office.

33. Several delegations expressed their concern with the upward trend of travel costs, and recommended that the travel budget needs special scrutiny so that additional economies can be identified and achieved. Some delegations pointed out the significant growth in the proposed travel budget for 1994-1995. The secretariat responded that the travel budget proposed for the 1994-1995 biennium represents a slight increase of 1.5 per cent over the revised 1992-1993 budget. Moreover, the proposed per capita travel cost for the 1994-1995 budget is projected to be lower than the 1992-1993 revised per capita travel cost due to the increased number of professional posts and the very limited increase in the travel budget.

34. One delegation expressed the view that, while it recognized the sense of urgency created by WANG's financial problems, it concurred with the view of ACABQ that a cost-benefit analysis should have been presented in the budget document first before implementing the migration to a new computer platform. One delegation related a similar experience to the filing of bankruptcy by WANG, which resulted in a situation analogous to the present situation of the secretariat. The secretariat informed the various delegations that the migration costs included in the budget proposal represent gross amounts secured from estimates presented by various vendors

which are in agreement with the approach to be used for the migration to the new computer platform, and that the various estimates presented differ only in the timetable or the speed necessary to achieve full implementation of the project. One delegation raised the question of how a move to a new headquarters location would affect the estimates of the migration project. The secretariat responded that the costs related to a move to a new location would involve only the networking costs and would have no direct relation to a move to a new headquarters location.

35. Several delegations expressed their concern with regard to the comments of ACABQ on the way the secretariat had categorized all the posts based on the criteria for core versus project posts recommended by the Reference Group and approved by the Executive Board in decision 1992/36 (E/ICEF/1992/14). Delegations noted the ACABQ opinion that the majority of the project posts listed in annex XV should be categorized as administrative and programme support posts. The delegations wondered whether the problem was the vagueness of the criteria or the incorrect application of the criteria by the secretariat. One delegation observed that although ACABQ raised questions on the application of the criteria, it did not cite any specific example where the criteria was applied incorrectly, and another delegation supported the secretariat's view that the criteria had been applied consistently. One delegation expressed the view that the mandate of the Reference Group work dealt with the issues of format and that it is now the task of the Executive Board to tackle the issues of substance. The delegation further recommended that the functions related to evaluation should be considered as core functions. The secretariat assured the delegations that the criteria for core versus project posts as approved by the Executive Board were applied consistently for all posts at headquarters and field locations. The secretariat further offered its willingness to accommodate a random audit by delegations on the implementation of the criteria for core versus project posts.

36. Several delegations observed, as did ACABQ, that the number of proposed upgradings of posts continues to be higher than the downgradings of posts, and that most downgradings are in the field. Specific concerns were expressed by some delegations with regard to the top-heavy structure in Supply Division and the Division of Personnel. In this connection, the average grade level of existing international Professional core posts is increasing and is at a higher rate at headquarters than in the field. The secretariat assured Executive Board members that all proposed upgradings and downgradings of posts are the result of the job classification process using International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) standards, and that all post levels warrant the duties and responsibilities the posts entail. The posts proposed earlier by the secretariat for upgrading and subsequently withdrawn, as detailed in E/ICEF/1993/AB/L.1/Corr.2, were also classified at the proposed levels using ICSC standards but were withdrawn in response to the restructuring process at the United Nations. The secretariat further clarified that there is no "grade-creep" and that the proposed budget reflects a slight decrease in average grade levels of international Professionals. There is, in fact, a greater reduction in the average grade level at headquarters, i.e., from 4.54 in the approved 1992-1993 budget to 4.51 in the proposed 1994-1995 budget, compared to 4.52 for the field in the approved 1992-1993 to 4.50 in the proposed 1994-1995 budget.

37. Some delegations were of the view, as expressed by ACABQ, that the total costs for programme promotion at headquarters are high, in particular, publications such as The State of the World's Children. Moreover, the number of publications have increased and delegations were of the view that the number and cost of publications should be contained. One delegation recommended that the cost of publication of The State of the World's Children report should be charged to the administrative and programme support budget and not to global funds. The secretariat informed delegations that a major study on publications was conducted in 1991, which resulted in the reduction of UNICEF publications. The increased figures mentioned in the administrative and programme support budget are not due to an increase in the number of publications but reflect an increase in translations, as most major publications are now being translated into three or four United Nations languages in order to reach non-English-speaking audiences. The State of the World's Children report is currently financed from the global funds programme budget because it is a programme promotion tool and is not used for fund-raising purposes. The type of publication determines the funding source for the publication; those publications relating to

information about UNICEF itself are financed from the administrative and programme support budget, whereas those relating to specific programme goals and serving as a source of information and guide for the economical, effective and efficient implementation of programmes are financed from the global funds programme budget.

38. Some delegations expressed concern that the total number of posts at headquarters is increasing. The secretariat clarified that there was a net decrease of 34 posts at headquarters from all funding sources.

39. Some delegations remarked on the paucity of African nationals in the organization in general and outside the African continent, particularly in high-level posts at headquarters locations. Delegations further observed that the number of African nationals has not increased over the past two years, although action on increased employment of African nationals was requested at the 1991 regular session of the Executive Board. The delegations also encouraged the secretariat, in the interest of capacity-building and empowerment, to recruit national Professionals in various capacities and also to carry out consultancies, both regionally and internationally, thereby affording them a role in the development of Africa. The secretariat replied by citing several high-level posts, including some at New York headquarters, which are filled, or are in the process of being filled, by African nationals. The secretariat added that national Professionals are being sent to other field offices to assist in their future advancement to the international category. The secretariat informed the delegations of the following encouraging statistics: 12.4 per cent of all UNICEF staff are African nationals; and African nationals account for 22.5 per cent of all international and national staff. It also reminded delegations that decision 1991/33 (E/ICEF/1991/15) on this issue called for recruitment from all developing countries and pointed out that the number of all international and national Professionals from these countries now amounts to 65.5 per cent.

40. Some delegations encouraged the secretariat to review further for the next budget proposal the ratio of secretaries to professionals, currently at two secretaries to three professionals, with a view to improving the ratio. The delegations cited their own secretary to professional ratio as more conservative than the ratio currently proposed by the secretariat. The secretariat stated the current ratio is the maximum guideline; there are many offices and organizational units where the actual ratio is much lower. The secretariat said the ratio guideline would be reviewed when preparing the next biennial budget. (See chap. IV, decision 1993/20 for the recommendation of the Committee as adopted by the Executive Board.)

VI. GLOBAL FUNDS PROGRAMME BUDGETS

41. The Committee considered the following:

(a) Revised 1992-1993 and proposed 1994-1995 global funds programme budgets (E/ICEF/1993/P/L.3 and Add.1);

(b) The report of ACABQ on the global funds programme budgets contained in E/ICEF/1993/AB/L.2.

42. Some delegations expressed concern that the criteria on the use of global funds is not very clearly spelt out in the global funds recommendation. The secretariat informed the Committee that a document on the criteria for the use and allocation of global funds (E/ICEF/1993/P/L.3/Add.1) has been prepared to respond to the request of several delegations during the Programme Committee discussion and would be available later during the 1993 session.

43. Some delegations requested clarification on the need to continue global Programme Funds for the 1990s Goals, citing as one reason the accomplishment of the universal child immunization (UCI) goal. They also suggested that 50 per cent of the funds could be reallocated to countries. The secretariat responded that while the UCI goal for 1990 was accomplished, much work remains to achieve the World Summit goals for the year 2000. The secretariat also clarified that approximately

75 per cent of global funds are allocated to country programmes to accelerate achievement of these goals.

44. One delegation suggested that allocations to regional offices be presented as a separate line from allocations to countries. The secretariat agreed to present future global funds budget recommendations following this recommendation.

45. One delegation raised the issue as to why the report on The State of the World's Children continued to be funded from the Interregional Fund for Programme Preparation, Promotion and Evaluation (IFPPE) and suggested that it be absorbed by the regular budget of the Division of Information. The secretariat responded that The State of the World's Children is to a large extent a programme publication which serves the purpose of advocacy and promotion; as such, it is appropriately funded from IFPPE.

46. One delegation was concerned about the proposed increase in the Emergency Programme Fund (EPF). The secretariat responded that the requested amount was the maximum authorized and that the actual use of EPF could be less.

47. One delegation suggested that the ability to borrow from the Central Emergency Revolving Fund (CERF) meant that less funding from general resources would be required for emergencies. The secretariat explained that funds were required for smaller emergencies, since not all emergencies were covered by CERF.

48. One delegation asked why the amounts being requested were in excess of the expenditure estimates in the financial medium-term plan. The secretariat said that it was not unusual to request more than what will actually be spent, since some under-implementation usually occurs. The secretariat also noted that all programme recommendations are approved subject to the availability of funds. However, the secretariat agreed that the difference in amounts between the two documents could be narrowed. (See chap. IV, decision 1993/21 for the recommendation of the Committee as adopted by the Executive Board.)

VII. OFFICE SPACE STRATEGY FOR CENTRAL HEADQUARTERS

49. The Committee considered the Executive Director's proposal for an office space strategy for central headquarters as described in document E/ICEF/1993/AB/L.9, the report of ACABQ contained in document E/ICEF/1993/AB/L.2 and the revised proposal received from the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) and the United Nations Development Corporation (UNDC) and possible third option in E/ICEF/1993/CRP.16.

50. After four years of review and consideration of various proposals, there was almost unanimous agreement among delegations that it is imperative that a final decision be taken this year. The secretariat concurred with this view, as particular concern is directed to such economic factors as possible increases in interest rates; improvement in the real estate market and general economic conditions, which would result in higher costs; the possible impact on the organization's credibility and its vulnerability to criticism in its efforts to rationalize its premises; and the total cost implications of postponing the decision.

51. Numerous delegations supported the Executive Director's conclusions and recommendations, as stated in paragraphs 64 to 82 of his report, that it would be in the best interest of UNICEF to accept the proposal by NYCEDC and UNDC of retaining its current headquarters facility in Manhattan and acquiring a second building (building A) in close proximity, with an eye towards accommodating all UNICEF headquarters in the United Nations Development District in New York City. These delegations stated that the non-financial implications of moving most or all of central headquarters from Manhattan would negatively affect the daily interactions between UNICEF, the United Nations and related agencies, permanent missions, NGOs and the media, with a loss in efficiency which would be sufficient to offset any apparent financial savings from a relocation outside of Manhattan. Furthermore, many delegations related their limited capacity in resources and staff to interact effectively with UNICEF headquarters if it were located some distance away and

concurred with the Secretary-General's view, expressed orally by the Deputy Executive Director, Operations, that the goals of a unified, well-coordinated organization would not be served by a piecemeal approach to the issue of location of funds and programmes and the desirability of common premises. The majority of delegations indicated their preference for UNICEF remaining in Manhattan.

52. One delegation said that, in addition to convenience and costs, it is also important to consider the value of the assets that would be acquired by UNICEF.

53. Two delegations requested further clarification and guarantees from the City of New York and UNDC with regard to the city's power to condemn building A within the conditions outlined in paragraph 4 of E/ICEF/1996/CRP.16. The secretariat provided additional information regarding the condemnation process and reported that UNDC would be able to guarantee that UNICEF could take occupancy of building A by January 1996.

54. One delegation recognized that a total move from the United Nations Development District may negatively affect UNICEF efficiency, but felt that the third option would incorporate the best features of both options by taking advantage of New Rochelle's less costly offer for the greater proportion of UNICEF staff. UNICEF House or some other location in Manhattan would be used only for those UNICEF officials most directly concerned with activities for which continued close proximity to United Nations headquarters is essential. The secretariat reported that no fewer than 243 staff would have to be retained in the proximity of the United Nations Development District in order to operate effectively.

55. One delegation favoured a complete relocation to New Rochelle, since this proposal was by far the most cost-effective alternative. In this connection, another delegation was concerned that the political aspects related to taking a decision regarding this matter might prevent the selection of a more cost-effective solution, which would have an adverse affect on providing additional funding for UNICEF programmes. Concern was also expressed on the maintenance costs of buildings A, B and C, as these would be older than the current premises and the proposed new building in New Rochelle.

56. One delegation requested further information on the additional savings in city tax reimbursement if a total move to New Rochelle was adopted. The secretariat said that the amount was likely not material since it depends on the tax residency status of staff and where the staff involved would reside. One delegation observed that by demonstrating a considerable savings in relocating outside of Manhattan, such a move might increase rather than decrease UNICEF fund-raising potential.

57. Another delegation suggested that building B or C was desirable since UNICEF could consolidate all of its operations in one location.

58. Many delegations, regardless of their preference for the location of headquarters, thanked the city of New Rochelle for its generous and well-prepared proposal.

59. Concern was expressed by several delegations regarding the options available and made particular reference to the rate of increase of staff projections at headquarters versus field offices, actual financial savings and the potential revenue from sub-leases. The secretariat said that UNICEF had been cautious with its staff projections but had to assume some growth since underestimating staff growth was the reason UNICEF House had reached capacity soon after completion. (See chap. IV, decision 1993/22 for the recommendation of the Committee as adopted by the Executive Board.)

VIII. OUTLINE OF A MANAGEMENT STUDY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE OF UNICEF HEADQUARTERS

60. The Committee considered the Executive Director's outline of a management study of the administrative and management structures at UNICEF headquarters as described in document E/ICEF/1993/AB/L.8 and Corr.1.

61. Several delegations recognized the need for a management study and commented on the Executive Director's proposal.

62. Most delegations touched on the scope, terms of reference, timetable, funding and other aspects and indicated that they would provide additional inputs for the preparation of terms of reference to be approved by the Board.

63. A number of delegations desired the study to be forward-looking and focus on administrative and management issues affecting UNICEF structures at headquarters, regional and field levels. The delegations also referred to the multi-donor evaluation of UNICEF and suggested that its findings and experience would be useful for the management study.

64. Delegations emphasized that the study should have external consultants working with the Executive Director and endorsed the suggestion that a combination of developing and industrialized country participation among the consultants would be very useful. A number of delegations referred to the budget for the conduct of this study. However, no specific proposal on how to fund this study was made in the general debate on this agenda item.

65. One delegation suggested that the study take into account the ongoing discussions on restructuring of the United Nations.

66. The secretariat welcomed and appreciated the useful guidance provided on the proposal made by the Executive Director and looked forward to receiving Executive Board advice and decisions on the final scope and terms of reference, timetable and approval of funds to conduct this study. (See chap. IV, decision 1993/23 for the recommendation of the Committee as adopted by the Executive Board.)

IX. GREETING CARD AND RELATED OPERATIONS

67. The Committee considered the following Greeting Card and related operation (GCO) documents:

(a) Provisional report for the period 1 May 1992-30 April 1993 (E/ICEF/1993/AB/L.4);

(b) Financial report and accounts for the year ended 30 April 1992 (E/ICEF/1993/AB/L.5 and Corr.1);

(c) GCO work plan and proposed budget for 1993 (E/ICEF/1993/AB/L.6).

68. The Director, GCO, reviewed the GCO mission statement, mandate and organizational structure, and briefed delegations on GCO 1991 financial results and 1992 provisional results. He also outlined the GCO corporate goals and financial objectives for 1993 and the strategies to be implemented by the three functional groups at GCO to meet the established goals.

69. Many delegations were pleased with the clarity and transparency of GCO documentation. Delegations congratulated GCO for its net income contribution to UNICEF. Many delegations agreed that the main purpose of GCO is to raise funds from the private sector and, as such, GCO is the commercial arm of UNICEF. The Board's emphasis on income generation from the private sector will form the policy platform for GCO. Furthermore, many delegations endorsed the restructuring of GCO, since this structure will make the division to be more effective.

70. Some delegations raised concerns about the GCO plan to evaluate the 50 per cent net return on gross proceeds from product line and marketing, believing that this financial objective might be modified. Delegations urged the importance of the 50 per cent objective established by the Executive Board for preserving the reputation and credibility of UNICEF. On the other hand, some delegations were of the view that the 50 per cent policy should be studied, as they believe it is a constraint on growth in certain markets. The Director, GCO, stated that he will establish a joint GCO/National Committee task force to review the policy and the findings will be presented to the regular session of the 1994 Executive Board. Two delegations expressed concern that GCO had not achieved this objective in 1992 and, based on current projections, would not reach it in 1993. Although there will be a study of this issue in 1993, the Director, GCO, assured that GCO will continue to strive to achieve the 50 per cent goal.

71. Several delegations emphasized the importance of GCO having staff with the prerequisite qualifications, commercial experience and technical skills. One delegation, while recognizing the skills and experience of the excellent staff from UNICEF field offices and headquarters divisions, felt this experience may not fit the requirements of GCO, which is involved heavily in the marketing of products and the raising of funds from the private sector. GCO emphasized that it was in total agreement with the delegations' concerns and indicated that GCO would continue to strive to recruit and promote the appropriate staff to serve UNICEF partners.

72. Two delegations raised questions about the conversion of core posts to project posts in GCO and its effect on staff security and morale. One delegation emphasized that this was a UNICEF-wide issue and did not apply exclusively to GCO. The administration assured that no core staff would lose their rights if and when their core posts were converted to project posts.

73. Many delegations supported the policy proposal for GCO to record, as income, contributions from the private sector raised by National Committees and UNICEF field offices for Board-approved supplementary-funded programmes. Two delegations recommended that this policy be included in the recommendations of the Committee on Administration and Finance.

74. Two delegations identified the need for more systematic planning and support in the area of private sector fund-raising, and GCO confirmed its full agreement with this proposal. With the strengthening of the fund-raising support team and the assignment of country focal point responsibilities, GCO is now in a position to respond positively to this request.

75. A number of delegations expressed satisfaction with the Fund-raising Development Programme (FDP) and its value as an investment mechanism and recommended support for its continuation in the future. One delegation supported the idea of converting this programme into a revolving fund and another delegation recommended a similar investment programme for product line and marketing.

76. Some delegations requested that GCO allow for a longer return period on FDP investments, although one delegation thought that results to date indicated that one year is sufficient. GCO responded that it would consider this point in its evaluation of the programme that is to be submitted to the 1994 session of the Executive Board.

77. GCO welcomed the request from several delegations to report private sector fund-raising income by region and agreed to provide this in future documentation.

78. In response to a request from a delegation to print cards in India, GCO reported that a senior management team had visited GCO operations in India in March 1993 to review the decreasing volume and sales revenues. A work plan with 33 action points was developed in order to turn the operation around. The team also visited an experimental paper recycling plant and considered the printing of indigenous cards for the India market. GCO will be discussing the work plan and strategy with the UNICEF representative to India and the Deputy Executive Director, Operations, shortly. Depending on the outcome of the discussions, GCO could conceivably

initiate printing of indigenous cards as early as the end of 1993. Furthermore, this will be considered in light of the global production facilities study currently being undertaken by GCO.

79. In response to several delegations' concerns about the high number of GCO-funded staff in UNICEF field offices and rising staff costs, the Director, GCO, stated that a review of GCO activities in field offices is being undertaken with the aim of better focusing human and financial resources to generate more income for UNICEF. Recommendations from the field office study will be proposed at the regular session of the 1994 Executive Board.

80. Several delegations expressed concern about the disappointing performance of special events. GCO management has already undertaken an internal appraisal, which had been shared with National Committees and Board members, and will continue to downsize and refocus special events so as to better serve the needs of UNICEF and its partners, keeping in mind that the primary role of the section is to help generate funds for UNICEF. (See chap. IV, decisions 1993/24 and 1993/25 for the recommendations of the Committee as adopted by the Executive Board.)

X. STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE UNICEF GLOBAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

81. The Chairman of the UNICEF Global Staff Association (GSA) addressed the Committee on UNICEF staff concerns.

82. The Chairman GSA, thanked Executive Board members for their expression of support for UNICEF staff and in particular for recognizing the staff members who lost their lives while serving UNICEF during the last year.

83. The Chairman GSA, said restrictions on staff numbers meant that UNICEF had to grow from within by concentrating on training existing staff. He requested delegations who also participate in the deliberations of ICSC and United Nations committees to support the concerns of staff members on the erosion of pension and other staff benefits.

84. The Chairman GSA, thanked the Executive Board and UNICEF management as valuable partners in developing the organization and its staff to promote a better life for children and women around the world.

XI. ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

85. The Committee on Administration and Finance held its seventh meeting on Friday, 7 May, to take action on proposals made by the drafting sessions and to make its final recommendations to the Executive Board. The recommendations made to the Board are contained in the statement of the Chairman of the Committee (E/ICEF/1993/AB/L.14) and in chapter IV of the present report.

TABLE 1. ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROGRAMME SUPPORT COSTS BY CATEGORY OF EXPENDITURE AND POSTS BY GRADE: CONSOLIDATION OF ALL OFFICES

(In United States dollars)

COST	1992–1993 APPROVED	1992–1993 REVISED	1994–1995 PROPOSED	CHANGES APPROVED VS. REVISED		CHANGES REVISED VS. PROPOSED	
				AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE	AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE
1. STAFF COSTS							
(a) INTERNATIONAL	121,631,854	121,019,578	141,159,114	(612,276)	(0.5)	20,139,536	16.6
(b) LOCAL	110,497,917	106,762,362	114,407,779	(3,735,555)	(3.4)	7,645,417	7.2
TOTAL, STAFF COSTS	232,129,771	227,781,940	255,566,893	(4,347,831)	(1.9)	27,784,953	12.2
2. (a) GENERAL OPERATING COSTS – HQ	76,546,897	77,735,643	88,916,877	1,188,746	1.6	11,181,234	14.4
(b) GENERAL OPERATING COSTS – FIELD	70,320,114	71,128,031	75,806,007	807,917	1.1	4,677,976	6.6
3. PACKING AND ASSEMBLY COSTS	11,957,525	10,308,693	11,073,603	(1,648,832)	(13.8)	764,910	7.4
TOTAL, COSTS	390,954,307	386,954,307	431,363,380	(4,000,000)	(1.0)	44,409,073	11.5
ESTABLISHED POSTS							
INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONAL							
USG	1	1	1	0	0.0	0	0.0
ASG	3	3	2	0	0.0	(1)	(33.3)
D-2	23	23	26	0	0.0	3	13.0
D-1	51	52	59	1	2.0	7	13.5
P-5	156	157	166	1	0.6	9	5.7
P-4	147	144	152	(3)	(2.0)	8	5.6
P-3	81	82	81	1	1.2	(1)	(1.2)
P-2/1	8	9	15	1	12.5	6	66.7
TOTAL, INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONAL	470	471	502	1	0.2	31	6.6
NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL	225	223	230	(2)	(0.9)	7	3.1
GENERAL SERVICE							
SECRETARIAL/CLERICAL	1,328	1,337	1,330	9	0.7	(7)	(0.5)
ANCILLARY	76	59	49	(17)	(22.4)	(10)	(16.9)
TOTAL, GENERAL SERVICE	1,404	1,396	1,379	(8)	(0.6)	(17)	(1.2)
TOTAL, POSTS	2,099	2,090	2,111	(9)	(0.4)	21	1.0